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Andy rises from the canvas to force Quillin draw



RINGSIDE REPORT

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Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez speaks to us about Mayweather, Cotto and being the sport's hottest young star



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Photos: USA TODAY SPORTS/JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA & LUCAS NOONAN/PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS



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Leonard Bundu

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IT'S OH SO QUIET

But the lack of Mayweather-Pacquiao noise should not be taken the wrong way

THREE weeks before taking on Muhammad Ali in 1971, we reported that Joe Frazier was forced to abandon his Catskills Mountains training base after 17 inches of snow made it impossible to complete his roadwork. There was something heroic about the photo of "Smokin' Joe, that undoubtedly appealed to sporting fans of the era, as he manfully tried to embrace the elements while his frozen beard and eyelashes left him looking like a yeti.

Forty-four years later, and with the latest Fight of the Century similarly close, there is something abominable coming from the Floyd Mayweather camp too; "Money" has commissioned a \$25,000 mouthpiece decorated by gold, diamonds, and \$100 bills. A bit further down the interest chart was news that a Manny Pacquiao sponsor, Butterfinger Cups, were promising one million of their snacks to fans if Manny failed to win. What we're missing, though, are triggers for real excitement. Although the May 2 showdown will almost certainly break financial records for revenue, one can't help but feel it's missing a trick with such a low-key build-up.

Mayweather [inset] has been quoted as saying the fight with Pacquiao is already sold, that interest is high, and therefore does not require any extensive promotion on his part. He added that his previous mischief in the lead-up to his biggest fights was all an act designed to sell tickets and is not required here. Perhaps that's true, but a bit of Mayweather marketing magic could seduce even more casual

sporting fans than it already has, and make this the must-see sporting event of the century so far. After all, who can forget Floyd making an irate Oscar De La Hoya clench his jaw so hard we feared his teeth would crumble, or addressing Manchester City fan Ricky Hatton's supporters while wearing the red of Manchester United? Undoubtedly such behaviour added thousands to the PPV numbers. We're not suggesting disrespect needs to rear its ugly head but

it can't be denied that a bit of good old-fashioned needle certainly pricks interest levels (Carl Froch-George Groves became an essential rivalry as a result). However, as boxing fans we must also be heartened by Mayweather's apparent determination to focus solely on battle. The potential irony of losing his expertly crafted unbeaten record to the name it has always been missing will not be lost on the American.

Behind closed doors be certain that Floyd and Manny are working harder than ever. Just like Frazier and Ali all those years ago. One only has to read Ashley Theophane's Las Vegas diary as evidence of that. The British fighter trains with Mayweather, and has provided a fascinating blog that can be found on our all-new micro-site dedicated to the Floyd vs Manny showdown (www.fightofthecentury.co.uk).

It's already loaded with exclusive content, extensive profiles, and is the perfect big-fight companion. Whether its golden gumshields or behind-the-scenes access you're interested in, we will share everything with you – our readers – first.

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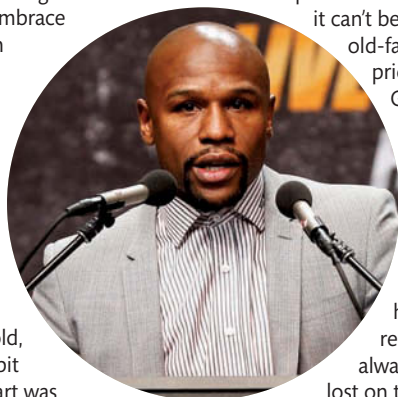
SCORING SOLUTIONS

● THIS week, another scoring controversy. The majority of observers thought Lamont Peterson deserved better than the majority decision defeat to Danny Garcia he suffered at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The scoring of bouts incites ferocious argument and remains a subjective business. Perhaps there will never be a complete answer to that. But surely improvements can be made to how the judging of bouts is assessed. More openness must be the solution. Would it be so damaging to have a clearer system for reviewing and even overturning decisions? There could be a system in which, within a certain time period after the bout, a protest could be lodged, a panel rescure the fight and rule on whether a rematch should be ordered or perhaps even on whether the result should be changed. While that could be seen to undermine judges, it could also reinforce their decisions and answer the critics' questions.

The risk of course is that protests would flood in after every contest. A financial cost to lodging a protest might prevent that, though paying for your hearing isn't exactly ideal.

There is no simple resolution but on the bright side judges do get it spot on too – just look at Andy Lee-Peter Quillin on the same card.



A BIT OF
MAYWEATHER
MARKETING
MAGIC COULD
SEDUCE EVEN
MORE CASUAL
FANS

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/PETER CZIBORRA



WE ARE IN A GOOD PLACE

How not getting Mayweather-Pacquiao has actually helped BoxNation



Frank Warren

**Promoter/
BoxNation boss**

We were very close to getting the UK television rights for Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao. The decision was supposed to be made six weeks before it actually was, we made a big offer but only one, whereas I believe Sky went backwards and forwards, negotiating. It's the biggest sporting event this year and Sky, a multi-sports company, decided to pull out all the stops to get it.

We'd have liked to have got it, but with the money we saved we have strengthened our output all-round and will continue to do so. We have the Gennady Golovkin-Willie Monroe Jrn fight on May 16 and a pretty strong schedule in May as a whole. Mayweather-Pacquiao has brought attention to everyone and I'm highly delighted that boxing is at the forefront.

We have big plans going forward. Regarding the possibility of Tyson Fury challenging world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko in September in the UK, watch this space. All events are good for the game but my view is that big, exciting events like that are the only way to



generate the big money needed for huge fights. I think both a rematch between Billy Joe Saunders and Chris Eubank Jrn, and Fury-Klitschko are pay-per-view-level events. Big fights for us get new subscribers in, but there is the option to buy just one event if you want.

I did the first pay-per-view boxing events for Sky. To be a pay-per-view now, it must be boxing's equivalent of Wimbledon or the FA Cup final. But the market has gone from one extreme to the other. We started with one, then lots, but then after the David Haye fights against Audley Harrison and Wladimir Klitschko, there were no more; there's only a certain amount of money in the market.

It's not the May 30 show itself, but two pay-per-views in a month is unfair to the fans and it's taking the money out of the market.

Each month from January-March we made a profit for the first time. Subscribers are quite high, but whereas previously we had big peaks and troughs, our churn rate is now down to less than seven per cent. People used to tune in for one month, but the channel has evolved and we have more subscribers on a regular basis. Going forward, I see us doing more streaming, evolving, developing. We are in discussions with three territories to franchise the channel out into other countries.

We've got some really good fighters here. I like the look of Jack Caterall [inset]. I'm happy with where we are and where we are going.

'TWO PAY-PER-VIEWS IN A MONTH IS UNFAIR TO THE FANS'



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WHAT'S HOT ON OUR WEBSITE...



INSIDE FLOYD'S CAMP

We hear from Ashley Theophane, who talks about his training, as well as Mayweather's



TITLE TARGET

Lee Selby promises to knock out Evgeny Gradovich and become IBF featherweight king



PRIMED AND READY

Anthony Joshua looks ahead to his biggest pro test yet, against American Kevin Johnson



'SMIGGA' FOR 'S.O.G'

Undefeated star Andre Ward eyes a comeback clash against Paul Smith

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TWEETS

@ANDYLEEBOXING

Well, it was a hard old fight.

@KIDCHOCOLATE is a brilliant boxer & a class act. Thank you @boxingbooth and @loudibella. On to the next...

ANDY LEE gives praise to challenger Peter Quillin, and thanks his trainer Adam Booth and promoter Lou DiBella.

@ERROLSPEACEJR

I remember everything...

Texas welter ERROL SPENCE sounds vaguely menacing after scoring his 16th win in Brooklyn.

@SHANEMOSLEY

My girl got me eating escargot in Covent Garden.

Former multi-weight champ SHANE MOSLEY enjoys his Sunday afternoon in London.

@1SILKYJONES

RIP: Sugar Ray Robinson and Joe Louis both passed away on this day, in 1989 and 1981 [respectively]. Legends never truly die.

Former WBO 154lb king PAUL 'SILKY' JONES notes the significance of April 12.

@TYSON_FURY

All this talk of people fighting for my British title, what a load of rubbish. It's mine & I'm keeping it, come take it off me bums.

TYSON FURY challenges domestic contenders to rip his Lonsdale Belt away.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

COMPARING ICONS

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS/TYRONE SIU



BOXING pundit and presenter Ed Robinson said of the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao

press conference that he would liked to have seen "more of the spirit of Roberto Duran" in Manny. While I understood what he meant by this comment, I don't feel it has ever really been a part of Pacquiao's personality – either before or after a fight – to display the furious venom that seemed to seep out of Duran's every pore outside the ring.

However, the unrelenting and intense aggression that was evident in a peak Duran inside the squared circle is something that has repeatedly been seen in Pacquiao's boxing career. The Filipino will need to showcase his aggressive instincts in order to have any chance of beating Floyd.

Paul Thorpe, via e-mail



FIRE IN HIS BELLY: Pacquiao [left] shows a bit of Duran in beating Chris Algieri

THE NEXT BRUNO?

ANOTHER quick night for Britain's heavyweight hope Anthony Joshua, dismantling the American Jason Gavern nearly two weeks ago. Joshua is making his opponents look amateurish, bashing them around the ring with ease. This is nice for fans to see, but I'm now craving a more stern test for "AJ". Hopefully he might get this against Kevin Johnson. Joshua reminds me of Frank Bruno, who was also heavily muscled and athletic. However, Bruno would burn out in the later rounds because of his muscle, and then come apart on the ropes.

I want Joshua to go all the way, but I'm not getting too excited just yet. I made that mistake with big Frank.

Patch Hammond, Norwich

'AJ' NEEDS A TEST

ANTHONY JOSHUA is undoubtedly a great talent, but these mismatches are doing him no good whatsoever. Is it that hard to get him fights against the likes of fellow unbeaten British heavyweights Hughie Fury, Gary Cornish and Dillian Whyte? Surely these are better opponents than the ill-conditioned American Jason Gavern?

Kevin Johnson looks a better opponent for Joshua. This should be the test we've been waiting for.

Raymond Lee, via e-mail

UNLUCKY OGOGO

ANTHONY OGOGO must be one of the unluckiest boxers around. After signing

with Golden Boy Promotions when turning professional, the future looked very bright, but injuries have hampered his career so far.

Still only 26 years old, I hope he can fight regularly once he is fully fit, and by the age of 28 or 29, hopefully he will hold a version of the world middleweight title.

Ian Owen, Wallington

RESPECT 'THE COBRA'

IT is ludicrous that James DeGale was recently calling out Carl Froch. "The Cobra" deserves more respect. I wish him all the best on his quest to bow out with a bang in America.

John Farey, Surrey

WE ASKED...



Is the May 30 Matchroom show pay-per-view-worthy?

ALEX BOYD

It's undoubtedly a very solid bill but that doesn't make it ppv-worthy. You need to have huge names in highly competitive, and preferably unification world title fights. The success of Carl Froch-Mikkel Kessler II has unfortunately re-introduced the ppv model far too readily.

OLIVER HEBSON

No. Because there are no elite-level 50-50 fights on it. It'll be a letdown just like the

Nathan Cleverly-Tony Bellew II card.

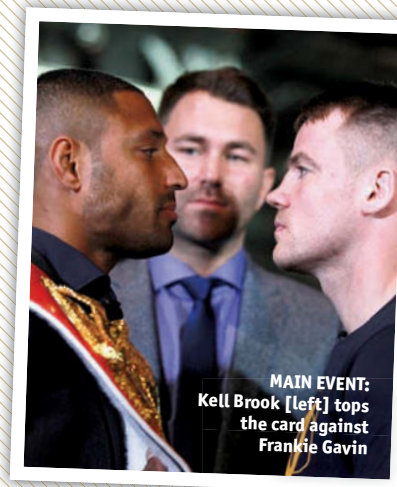
CHRIS REEVE

I will be buying it, huge night of championship boxing and a massive chance the UK comes away with two more world champions!

ROBERT CRAINEY

Compared to previous years, yes, but not when [Sky] are already showing a ppv event at the start of the month.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JOHN MARSH



MAIN EVENT: Kell Brook [left] tops the card against Frankie Gavin



HEAD-2-HEAD

TERENCE CRAWFORD

VS

ADRIEN BRONER

Who would win this light-welter match-up and why?

JON INGRAM

Crawford by 10-2 in rounds. Broner's good but he ain't as good as Yuriorkis Gamboa, and Crawford handled that fight once he adjusted.

MARCUS TIPPINS

Broner! Crawford will break down with those body shots from hell Broner sits down on. And Broner is quicker.

ANDRES BERMUDEZ

Crawford can adapt, and he's tall and rangy for the weight-class. Broner's speed will trouble him early but "Bud" will overpower and outskill him for a close decision.

EDWIN CASANAS

I hate to admit it but I think Broner wins by split decision. Crawford can be outboxed, as Gamboa proved.

WILLIAM BRYANT

Crawford. He's shown the ability to change his game plan throughout a fight, has a good chin, good power, great timing, and can switch stances with no deficit in performance.

RAV STONE

Very close fight. People underestimate Broner's toughness, and he does have decent speed and power. Crawford got rocked by the smaller Gamboa.

THE PANEL

WHO WILL BE BOXING'S NEXT BIG STAR AFTER MAYWEATHER AND PACQUIAO?



Allan Green

Ex-WBA 168lb title challenger

Andre Ward's a strong, undefeated fighter. With the skills he's got and the accomplishments he's already achieved, he should be boxing's next big star. Whether or not that happens is another thing.



Tony Sims

Top trainer

I may be a little bit biased, but I think Anthony Joshua's got that star potential. He just gets mobbed by the fans everywhere he goes, whether it be in London, Newcastle or Glasgow.



Stuart Hall

Former IBF bantam boss

You can't compare anyone to Mayweather and Pacquiao. Kell Brook is looking very tasty at the moment, though. I'd like to see him fight some top names. Big things are to come for him.



Bradley Pryce

Ex-C'wealth 154lb king

Well, Gennady Golovkin already looks like he's going to be a superstar doesn't he? He's just a level above all of his rivals at the moment. I think he's going to stay around for a while yet.

LUCAS MATTHYSSE-RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV – WHO WINS?

Allan Green

Ex-WBA 168lb title challenger

Provodnikov is a good fighter, but he's crude and rough. I think Matthysse is less reckless and has got more craftsmanship. I don't know if he'll be able to knock Provodnikov out, but he can win.

Tony Sims

Top trainer

Matthysse has the better technical ability and he punches harder, but Provodnikov can take a shot and walk you down. I'm edging towards Provodnikov on points. He can grind Matthysse down.

Stuart Hall

Former IBF bantam boss

That's a beautiful fight! They're both bangers, and it's going to be an absolute war in there. I'm probably siding with Matthysse on points for the outcome, but it's a tough one to call.

Bradley Pryce

Ex-C'wealth 154lb king

Matthysse and Provodnikov guarantee excitement, and that's what keeps the fans interested in boxing at the end of the day. Their styles will make for a great fight, but I can't pick a winner!

10 COUNT

WEIGHT WOES

Daniel Herbert lists some episodes of boxers coming in too heavy

1. JOAN GUZMAN

The Dominican Republic talent scaled an amazing 9lbs too much for his 2010 IBF lightweight title bout against Ali Funeka.

2. BENNY LYNCH

In 1938 the Scot was 6 1/2lbs over the flyweight limit, so his fight against Jackie Jurich became non-title.

3. JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ

The Mexican was a whopping 3 1/2lbs over lightweight for his fourth-round KO of Diego Corrales in October 2005.

4. DIEGO CORRALES

In October 2006, Corrales came in 4lbs too heavy for his lightweight title bout against Joel Casamayor.

5. CHARLEY PHIL ROSENBERG

The New York State Commission stripped him of its bantam crown when he was 4 1/2lbs over for a 1927 defence against Bushy Graham.

6. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JNR

His first fight against Brian Vera in 2013 saw the contract poundage adjusted more than once when it became clear the Mexican wouldn't make super-middle.

7. CHARTCHAI CHIONOI

The veteran Thai came in 3 1/2lbs too heavy for a 1974 WBA flyweight defence and got KO'd in six by Japan's Susumu Hanagata.

8. PABLO CESAR CANO

Mexican was 3/4lb heavy against WBA welter boss Paulie Malignaggi in 2012 and lost a contested split decision.

9. BATTILING BATTALINO

He scaled 3 3/4lbs over for a 1932 world 126lb title defence against stablemate Freddie Miller, with the lacklustre bout declared a three-round No Contest.

10. ORLANDO SALIDO

Over by 2 1/4lbs for a 2014 defence against dangerous Vasyl Lomachenko, this Mexican lost his WBO feather belt on the scales but won the decision.

'THEY'RE BOTH BANGERS, AND IT'S GOING TO BE AN ABSOLUTE WAR'

IN BRIEF

BN'S ROAD TO LAS VEGAS

A NEW micro-site dedicated to the **Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao** showdown can be found within our website. Updated several times a day, and already jam-packed with goodies, we invite you to join us on the road to Las Vegas, as we provide exclusive columns, videos, podcasts, interviews and live blogs (www.fightofthecentury.co.uk).

FLOYD-MANNY UNDERCARD

UNBEATEN Mexican **Leo Santa Cruz** has been added to the three-fight pay-per-view-televised undercard on the **Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao** show at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on May 2. The Rosemead, California-based star, who currently holds the WBC super-bantamweight crown, will face an opponent to be determined. The other co-feature on the bill pits Ukraine's WBO featherweight ruler **Vasyl Lomachenko** against Puerto Rican **Gamaliel Rodriguez**.

In non-pay-per-view undercard action, undefeated Mayweather Promotions duo **Christopher Pearson** and **Andrew Tabiti** aim to maintain their perfect records. Trotwood, Ohio's Pearson meets Morocco's **Said El Harrak** in a light-middleweight 10-rounder, while Chicago-born Las Vegas resident **Tabiti** takes part in a cruiserweight eight-rounder against an adversary who has yet to be decided.

The only other contest to be confirmed for the event so far is a 10-session clash for the vacant USBA super-middleweight award between Philadelphia's **Jesse Hart** and Chicago's **Mike Jimenez**, who have both yet to taste defeat.

● More at BOXINGNEWSONLINE.NET

WARD EYES SMITH NEXT

LIVERPOOL'S **Paul Smith** could be in line to fight **Andre Ward** on June 20 in the latter's hometown of Oakland, California. Smith completed back-to-back WBO super-middleweight title fights – both gallant points defeats – to **Arthur Abraham**. Ward, who didn't fight in 2014, is the WBA Super world super-middle champion.

"[Roc Nation, Ward's handlers] enquired about Smith to fight Ward. Talks are ongoing and I think he's got a chance," Paul's promoter **Eddie Hearn** revealed.

BRITISH CIVIL WAR

Brook to defend his IBF crown against fellow Brit Gavin on pay-per-view

AN all-British IBF welterweight title contest between champion **Kell Brook** and challenger **Frankie Gavin** will headline Matchroom's Sky Sports Box Office show at the O2 Arena in London on Saturday May 30.

Other fights on the bill include world championship tilts for two other Brits in **Kevin Mitchell** and **Andrew Selby**, who take on WBC lightweight king **Jorge Linares** and IBF featherweight ruler **Evgeny Gradovich** respectively.

Additionally, **Anthony Joshua** faces **Kevin Johnson**.

After hammering **Jo Jo Dan** last month in his first outing since returning from injury, Brook is now looking to establish himself as a dominant world titlist at 147lbs. "The more active I am the better," Kell commented. "I know that Gavin's going to come to win. He believes he can beat me."

Brook also took the opportunity to take a dig at his fierce domestic rival,

Amir Khan. "Gavin is the only Brit out there with the balls to get in with me," the Sheffielder said. "That other kid from Bolton [Khan] doesn't fancy the job. I respect Frankie for getting in [but] I'm going in there to hurt him. If he comes to fight, I'm going to knock him out. If he tries to kid his way through it, I'll find a way to knock him out."

Despite being an outsider going into the clash, Birmingham's Gavin is quietly confident that he can cause the upset and achieve his dream of becoming a world champion.

"I asked for the shot. No hesitation whatsoever," Frankie said. "I think

[Brook's] stiff up top. I think I'll be able to catch him. I'm going to go out there, do my best and we'll see what happens. I'm the big underdog but [there's] no pressure, only the pressure I put on myself. I've got nothing to lose. If I win, I'm world champion, if I lose I'm still here where I am now. I'll be going for that European and back for a world title shot."

'THAT OTHER KID FROM BOLTON [KHAN] DOESN'T FANCY THE JOB'

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JOHN MARSH



BRIT POWER: Promoter Hearn stands behind his fighters, Brook [left] and Gavin

WHISPERS

MANCHESTER'S **Terry Flanagan** expects to be made the mandatory challenger for the WBO lightweight belt, which will be disputed between **Raymundo Beltran** and **Takahiro Aoki** on May 1 in Las Vegas. "It's my best chance of winning a world title," he opined.

FORMER WBC light-welterweight titlist **Junior Witter**, 41, fights in Le Cannet, France this Friday (April 17). The 43-7-2 (23) Sheffield man challenges for the European Union welterweight strap over 12 rounds against Frenchman **Ahmed El Mousaoui**, 21-1-1 (5).

WATFORD'S 2012 Olympic super-heavyweight champ **Anthony Joshua** is likely to feature on Matchroom's Barclaycard Arena show in Birmingham on Saturday May 9, prior to facing **Kevin Johnson** at London's O2 Arena later that month. Popular local boxers **Matthew Macklin**, **Kal Yafai** and **Sam Eggington** will also perform on the Birmingham bill.

THERE are reportedly half a dozen names in the running to officiate the **Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao** Sin City superfight on May 2. The select six, each of whom could be the third man in the ring along with Floyd and Manny are **Kenny Bayless**, **Robert Byrd**, **Russell Mora**, **Jay Nady**, **Tony Weeks** (all of whom reside in Las Vegas) and **Vic Drakulich** (of Reno, Nevada).

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Photo: LUCAS NOONAN/PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS



'THE WAY LEE REPELLED DEFEAT WAS NOTHING SHORT OF HEROIC'

The *Boxing News* team bring you their weekly thoughts

HERO OF THE WEEK

NICK BOND

Can a sport be a hero? Whisper it quietly but there is a whiff of a revolution in boxing happening. Good times for the sport and the fans.

MATT CHRISTIE @MattCBoxingNews

The way Andy Lee repelled defeat after that early shellacking was nothing short of heroic. In the end, he was unfortunate not to win.

DANNY FLEXEN

Roman Martinez for reigniting his flagging career with a victory over fellow veteran Orlando Salido.

JOHN DENNEN @BoxingNewsJD

Lee was in real trouble at the start of his fight with the larger Peter Quillin, but I thought the Irishman impressively rallied in a cracking fight.

PAUL WHEELER @PaulWheelerBN

Not many people fancied Martinez to beat Salido (me included), but the Puerto Rican proved the doubters wrong with an impressive win.

VILLAIN OF THE WEEK

NICK BOND

Miguel Cotto, if he defends his title against Daniel Geale at a catchweight. My answer to a later question will explain why.

MATT CHRISTIE @MattCBoxingNews

Al Haymon – putting world champions Lamont Peterson and Danny Garcia together in a non-title catchweight bout smacked a little too much of ulterior motives.

DANNY FLEXEN

Whoever sent Johnny Nelson out into the bear pit of inebriated fans in Leeds. Never has a crowd warm-up been less necessary.

JOHN DENNEN @BoxingNewsJD

Maybe a joint award to Garcia and Peterson for, out of the three world titles they have between them, putting none on the line.

PAUL WHEELER @PaulWheelerBN

Quillin, for failing to make the weight ahead of his WBO middleweight title tilt against Lee.

WHICH FIGHT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AT THE WEEKEND AND WHY?

NICK BOND

I think Julio Cesar Chavez Jr vs Andrzej Fonfara could very well turn out to be the most exciting fight of the year. Both are tough, strong-willed, no-frills warriors. A mouth-watering match. Kudos to the matchmaker.

MATT CHRISTIE

@MattCBoxingNews

The battle between fearless sluggers Ruslan Provodnikov and Lucas Matthisse looks set to be a fight that makes one feel a little guilty about the joy two athletes pummeling each other brings.

DANNY FLEXEN

Personally, Derry Mathews-Ismael Barroso because I have followed the Liverpool man's journey with interest and I will be at the show. But Matthisse-Provodnikov will be amazing.

JOHN DENNEN

@BoxingNewsJD

Matthisse versus Provodnikov - total war, surely.

PAUL WHEELER

@PaulWheelerBN

Matthisse-Provodnikov is not going to be one for the faint-hearted. All-out war is on the cards.

DOES THE MAY 30 SHOW WARRANT ITS PAY-PER-VIEW PLATFORM?

NICK BOND

I prefer to see ppv reserved for that elite bracket of contests we call superfights. May 30 is a very good show, but I don't consider it ppv-worthy.

MATT CHRISTIE

@MattCBoxingNews

I understood the criticism facing the Nathan Cleverly-Tony Bellew II card but no quarrel with this at all. The three world title fights are intriguing and far from foregone conclusions, and the prospect of Anthony Joshua going a few rounds adds to the charm.

DANNY FLEXEN

Yes. Three world title fights on one card on British soil has not happened in almost 15 years. My only quarrel is that two £20 ppvs in one four-week period places unfair strain on the fans.

JOHN DENNEN

@BoxingNewsJD

I think so. Of course I'd prefer it to be free to view but I'm not sure how else you could have got Jorge Linares and Evgeny Gradovich to contest their world titles in the UK and to sweeten the deal, in Kell Brook-Frankie Gavin, it's got an all-British world title fight.

PAUL WHEELER

@PaulWheelerBN

Three interesting world title fights and a selection of strong supporting bouts, including Joshua-Kevin Johnson, mean that the show is pay-per-view-worthy.

LUCAS MATTHYSSE VS RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV. WHO WINS AND HOW?

NICK BOND

Matthisse on points.

MATT CHRISTIE

@MattCBoxingNews

Matthisse inside-schedule.

DANNY FLEXEN

Matthisse rsf 11.

JOHN DENNEN

@BoxingNewsJD

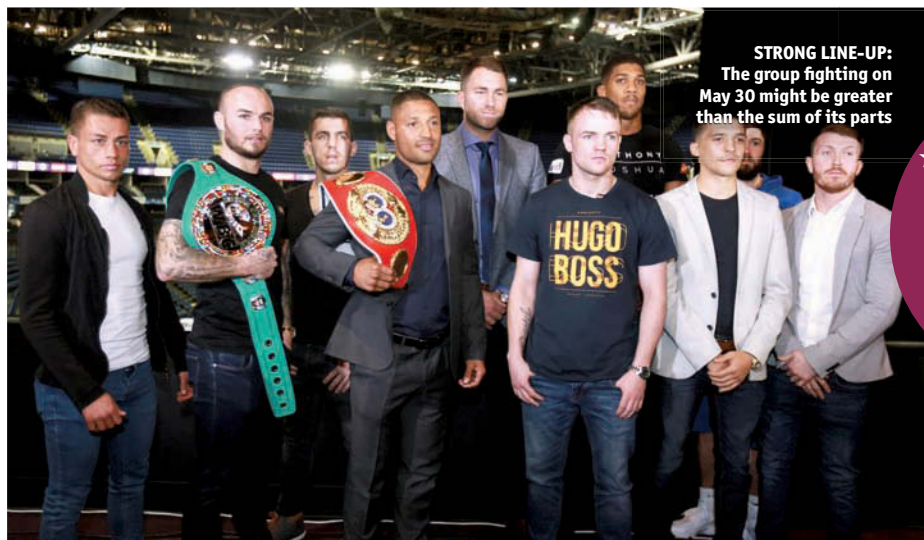
Provodnikov by stoppage.

PAUL WHEELER

@PaulWheelerBN

See pages 20-21.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JOHN MARSH



MATTHYSSE
★ vs PROVODNIKOV ★
BIG-FIGHT PREVIEW
P
20

CATCHWEIGHT – GOOD OR BAD FOR BOXING?

NICK BOND

I'm not a fan of catchweight contests. They have no effect on the landscape of the boxers and their respective divisions.

MATT CHRISTIE

@MattCBoxingNews

Too often, catchweight fights are created to favour one fighter rather than being the fairest option to both. I understand the logic behind them but we live

in an era with more than enough weight-classes to accommodate all.

DANNY FLEXEN

Good overall as it can help make the better fights happen, but I'd prefer to see them at a traditional weight.

JOHN DENNEN

@BoxingNewsJD

Bad for title fights. I think boxers have to be prepared to move up in weight when they've

outgrown their current division.

PAUL WHEELER

@PaulWheelerBN

You could argue that if it wasn't for catchweights, it would be impossible to match certain top fighters against one another. However, overall, I think it's better to stick with the standard weight limits, for clarity's sake more than anything.

AMBITIOUS:
Ellett is building
towards British
title honours



'MY TEAM KNOW I CAN PUNCH'

Lloyd Ellett, the 28-year-old light-middle, talks to **Danny Flexen** about the story so far and says questions regarding his power are not a concern



NBEATEN light-middle prospect Lloyd Ellett may be from Brighton but is part of Alan Smith's thriving iBox Gym set-up in Bromley. Training under Smith and Eddie Lam, plus working alongside the likes of Bradley Skeete and Johnny Garton, has brought the former England rep on and he aims to make a statement in 2015.

How did you first get into boxing and what was your amateur career like?

I got into it through my dad. He boxed as a kid, not at any great level but he had a go and I've always had an interest. I also remember watching Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank and the *Rocky* films, they get you buzzing about being a boxer.

I boxed for the Brighton and Hove club, the definite highlight was when I boxed for England. I also won the Haringey Box Cup and got the Boxer of the Tournament there too. I had 64 amateur fights, winning 41.

Given you were raised in Brighton and still live there, how have you ended up at iBox?

My first trainer as a pro was the former heavyweight Scott Welch, who manages me now. He trained me as an amateur and for my first two pro fights but it was only ever supposed to be a short-term solution. He brought in a guy called Paul Newman who had trained him in the past and he worked with me until after my ninth fight, but he had a bad back and gave it up. Me and Scott sat down and we realised there wasn't much going on in Brighton in the pros, so we got in touch with Alan [Smith] at iBox. It takes an hour to drive to the gym every day, so it's a long round trip but it's definitely worth it. I already knew a lot of the lads in the gym, I boxed Brad [Skeete] as an amateur, I knew Lewis [Pettitt], Ricky Boylan [who is no longer at the gym] and Johnny Garton. I had spoken to Al and Eddie [Lam] at shows.

What is the secret of the stable's success?

It's like being an amateur, you feel like you're part of a club, it has that family feel. It can be a bit lonely training alone as a pro. We're pushing each other hard and we try to beat each other in

all the training. We've all got a great relationship. I've known them all quite a long time. We mix it up, I spar Brad and Johnny a lot, [super-middle] Darryll Williams, even lightweight Adam Dingsdale, I spar him now and again for speed and movement. Brad had a close fight for the British title so he's the main one who has really proved himself so far.

Why did you turn pro relatively late on?

I was 24 when I turned pro. I always had other stuff going on, including my Sport and Exercise Science degree.

I still work now. I was working in a school for kids with challenging behaviour, teaching there, but working as a personal trainer as well. It was madness! It was like working three jobs.

Now I do personal training and I'm my own boss so I can be flexible, I gave myself over a week off before the last fight. It's just a few hours out of my day now.

From your 17 victories, only four have come inside-schedule. What is the reason for that?

My power's not really an issue because my team know I can punch, it's not so much a concern. The last guy I boxed [Raimonds Sniedze] had boxed at super-middleweight most of the time so he was a naturally bigger guy. I think it's putting shots together a little bit more I need to work on, rather than landing a big shot and then walking away.

Who has been your biggest test so far?

Sniedze because he had quite a lot of physical attributes over me, then there was Gary Cooper, who I beat over 10 last year. He's quite a big puncher and I got knocked down in the second round in that one. That proves records don't mean a lot [Cooper was 3-12-1 going into that contest].

Where do you see yourself figuring in the domestic light-middle picture this year?

I want to stay unbeaten and crack the top 10, top five of the domestic rankings. There's the Southern Area or English, both titles I'd like to fight for. It's all building towards the big one, the British. Liam Smith hasn't defended it for a while and I think there's a lack of challengers for him, he seems pretty much done with the domestic scene. It's quite an open, talented division after him.



TOUGH TEST: Ellett [right] overcomes the naturally bigger Raimonds Sniedze

'I BOXED FOR ENGLAND AND WON THE HARINGEY BOX CUP'



Lone Star

Next out in Texas, Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez talks to Thomas Gerbasi about being Golden Boy's standard-bearer

It takes a fair bit to break the poker face of Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, but when told that he could fight his interviewer at Minute Maid Park in Houston, Texas on

May 9 and still sell the place out, he couldn't help but laugh.

Maybe it was due to the fact that said interviewer fought once in the New York Golden Gloves and was knocked out in 63 seconds, or that the idea of being that big of a star to warrant such praise isn't as far-fetched as it might have been a few years back. Regardless, Alvarez is thankfully not fighting a reporter in May, but one of the most dangerous punchers in the game in James Kirkland, and while deciding to opt for such a foe may be seen as an admirable move in the eyes of the media and fight fans, it's not something he thought twice about.

"That's the kind of person I am and the kind of fighter I am," he said from his training camp in San Diego. "I want the best fights. I want to fight the most dangerous, the best fighters out there. I like to give my fans the best fights and

the best of me and that's the reason why I chose him."

When it comes to pure action, the 12-round non-title bout can't help but deliver, and it's the perfect fight for Mexico's Alvarez to kick off his 2015 campaign with, especially following a split decision victory last July over Erislandy Lara, a Cuban who is notoriously tough to look good against. With Kirkland in the ring, he won't have to look hard to find him, though Alvarez is non-committal when asked if the Texan's

come-forward style played into his decision to choose him as his next opponent.

"I don't really worry about that," he said. "I can't say for sure whether it's a better style or not, but he comes to fight,

I like to fight, and it's going to be a fight that the fans will enjoy, and one that's going to bring out the best in both of us."

At 24, Alvarez is at once the perfect icon for today's boxing world and a far from typical one. With red hair and freckled face, he looks more like a star of Mexican telenovelas than the prizefighters who have hailed from that country in the past. Erik Morales, Julio Cesar Chavez or Salvador Sanchez he's not, but it's that unique look that first put him in the sights

of his promoter, Oscar De La Hoya of Golden Boy Promotions.

Alvarez' gaudy ledger didn't hurt in prompting De La Hoya to sign him and introduce him to fans in the United States, but sceptics were everywhere, having seen plenty of Mexican fighters come over with lofty unbeaten records filled with unknowns, only to get destroyed when faced with an opponent who fought back.

Canelo was different though, and as he worked his way through quality foes just below the elite level, he began to make believers, capping off the first step of his world domination strategy with a decision win over Matthew Hatton in March of 2011 that earned him the vacant WBC light-middleweight crown.

The fights would only get bigger, with notable wins over Shane Mosley, Joseito Lopez and Austin Trout making him a star not just at home in Mexico, but in the States as well, and setting up the biggest fight of 2013 against pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather. That bout set records, but the only one Alvarez cared about was his won-loss slate, and on that September night in Las Vegas, he suffered defeat for the first time, dropping a competitive majority decision to Mayweather. ➤

SAUL
★ ALVAREZ ★
BIG FEATURE
BOXING NEWS



TRUE COMPETITOR:
Alvarez wants to
fight the best
opponents out there

Photo: JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/
USA TODAY SPORTS

➤ "I learned so many things. One of the things that was very important was to not fight outside of my weight division," Alvarez noted of the bout, which was fought at a catchweight of 152 pounds, technically in the light-middleweight class, but a struggle for the then-WBA and WBC champion to make. "That's something that affected me. But being so young, the experience that I gained will help me win in the future, in bigger fights and bigger events. There were so many things that I gained in that fight that I can't pinpoint one, but it was a great experience and it will make me a much better fighter."

Bigger fights and bigger events? It's hard to think of one bigger than a rematch with "Money" Mayweather, but the odds of that happening are pretty slim at the moment. For some fighters, not getting the chance to avenge a loss would be something to haunt them forever. Alvarez isn't one of those.

"It's something I'm not going to dwell on," he commented regarding a rematch with the only man to put a loss on his 44-1-1 (31) record. "I'm gonna continue on with my career and do what I have to do. If, God willing, I ever do get to fight him again, it would be great, but if not, I'm going to move on with my career."

After Mayweather's superfight with Manny Pacquiao the week before Alvarez-Kirkland, there will likely be a reworking of the definition of 'big fight', yet once that's done, expect the new paradigm to routinely include the Juanacatlán native, who did try to secure a megabout of his own for his first appearance of 2015 against Puerto Rican superstar Miguel Cotto. Negotiations broke down though, leading Canelo to move on to Kirkland, while Cotto signed

up with Jay-Z's Roc Nation promotional group.

"I don't feel that bad about it," Alvarez insisted. "We made a great effort in making the fight, we did everything we could and it wasn't able to get made. Obviously my concentration right now is May 9 and Kirkland, and I'm very happy that I have a fight, I have a date, and I have an opponent



ENDORSED:
De La Hoya
[right] rates his
protégé highly

“
**I RESPECT THE
SPORT. IT COMES
NATURALLY,
AND IT'S A
PART OF ME**
”

that people are interested in. The fans are going to like this fight, and if it [a Cotto fight] happens in the future, it will happen. But right now, I'm concentrating one hundred per cent on Kirkland and May 9."

All fighters will

say that, yet few sound as convincing as Alvarez when he declares that he's focusing on his upcoming bout and nothing else.

It's another thing that separates him from the pack, a calm and mature attitude that is rarely seen in a 24-year-old idol to millions.

"Canelo is very unique because he is so mature for his age," De La Hoya said. "He doesn't have any bad habits, he loves his craft, and he respects what he does. Therefore, I believe Canelo will be a champion for many years to come."

The fighter brushes off such praise, insisting that his cool under pressure and in the public eye is simply something that comes naturally.

"It's my persona, it's my essence," Alvarez affirmed. "I take this very seriously. You can see it in my interviews, you can see it in my fights, and I respect the sport. It's something that comes naturally, and it's a part of me."

But was he always so mature, even as a youngster?

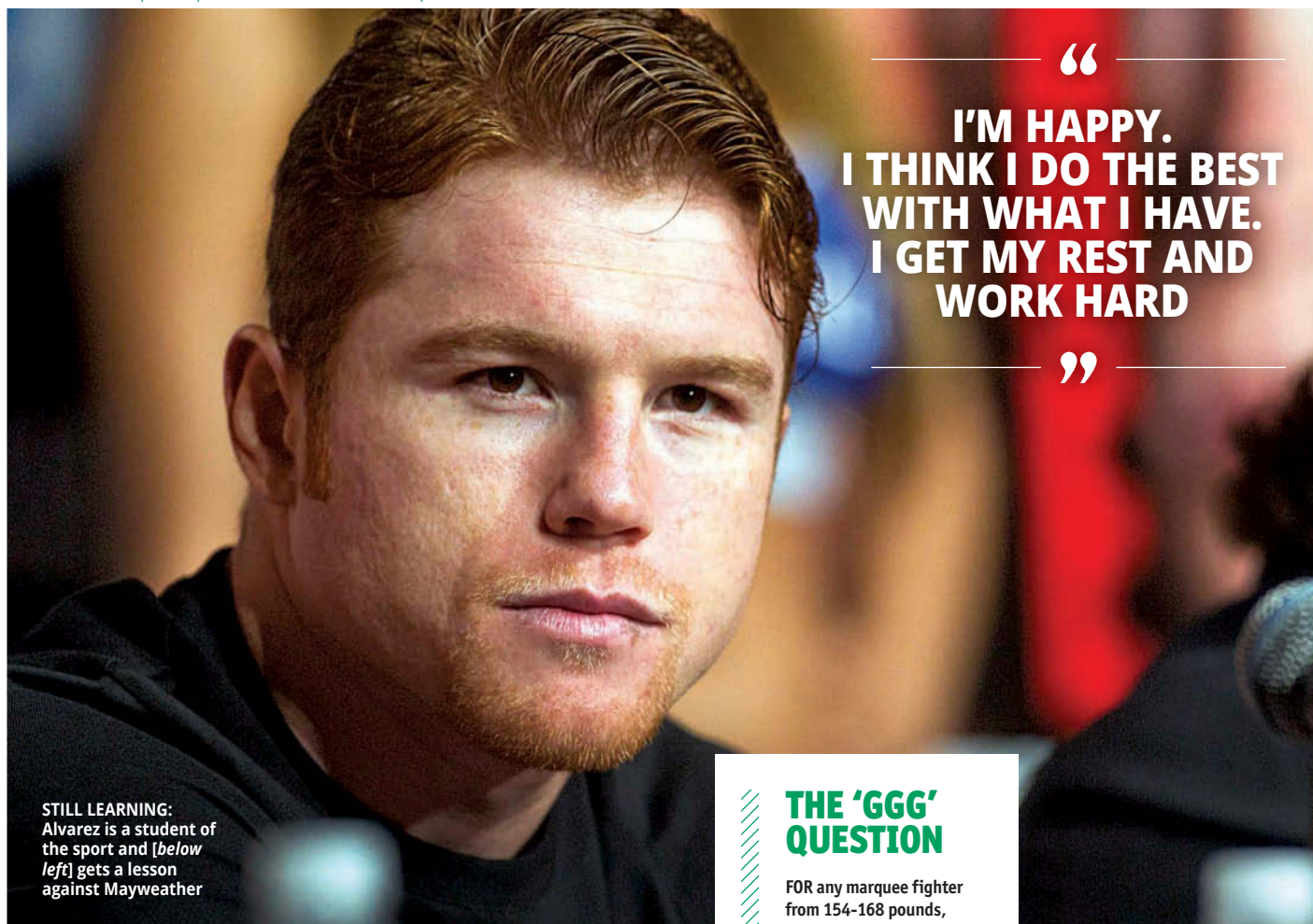
"I've always been like that, especially in fighting."

He's been fighting for much of his life. The youngest of eight children, Alvarez has six brothers, all of whom stepped into the ring at one time or another. Alvarez put on the gloves for the first time at 13, and he

never looked back, never wanted to do anything else with his life but fight.

FAR FROM IDEAL:
Alvarez [left] defeats
Lara but does not look
good against the Cuban





STILL LEARNING: Alvarez is a student of the sport and [below left] gets a lesson against Mayweather

“
**I'M HAPPY.
I THINK I DO THE BEST
WITH WHAT I HAVE.
I GET MY REST AND
WORK HARD**
”

THE 'GGG' QUESTION

FOR any marquee fighter from 154-168 pounds, the elephant in the room is WBA Super world middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin, a man apparently no one wants to fight. When asked if a move to middleweight for a fight with Golovkin is in his future, Alvarez didn't hesitate in his response.

“I don't know how much longer I'll stay at 154,” he said. “Right now I can make the weight fine and I don't have a problem with it, but if it [Golovkin] is a fight that's going to be in the near future, then maybe we can do a catchweight. We'll see how much longer I can sustain the weight, but right now, I can make the weight fine.”

De La Hoya doesn't see too many hurdles blocking a Golovkin or Cotto fight in the future either, saying, “I believe those fights are ones the public will demand, and they will be relatively easy to make, because Canelo, Cotto and Golovkin are all warriors.”



“I've always loved boxing, I've always been passionate about it, and it's something that I've always wanted to do,” he revealed. A decade after his first trip between the ropes, he's one of the sport's marquee figures, a young man whose appeal can be boiled down to a simple formula of good looks, an exciting style in the ring, and a boy-next-door image that is aided by the fact that there are no scandals brewing, no incendiary statements flowing, and no hint of menace anywhere but in the ring. Add in Alvarez's insistence that he's not burned out on the sport, despite 46 pro bouts, and you've got a fighter who can stand to make millions for years to come.

“Thank God I haven't got to that point, and it's a balance,” he remarked. “It's good to have your rest, but also to train hard and work hard, and I'm happy. I just think I do the best with what I have. Obviously, I get my rest between fights, and then I get to work and I work hard. I'm very fortunate that I've been able to distinguish between the two.”

It's a good place to inhabit for Alvarez, because if he's survived a life that has not been his own for the last few years, with every move documented by the worldwide

media, such intrusions are not likely to get to him now. That's important, because at this point, things will only continue to grow, especially with his youth and fan appeal putting him in the position where he is ‘the Golden Boy’ of Golden Boy Promotions in the Al Haymon takeover era. In other words, as long as he's around, De La Hoya's firm will remain a major player in the sport, and Alvarez appreciates and accepts the role of ‘The Man’ for the promoter.

“Coming from Oscar, it's a motivation,” he said. “If Oscar says that and he feels that way about me, it motivates me and makes me want to do better.”

Alvarez will do better. There's been nothing displayed as of yet to think otherwise. But for all the money, the fame and the big fights, the young man with the red hair and freckles would ultimately be happy with something you can't put a price tag on: respect.

“That's exactly what I'm looking for, and I want that,” he asserted. “I respect the sport and I would love for everybody in the sport to respect me. I think that it's a very important thing for me. That's why I give my best – I want to be respected.” **BN**

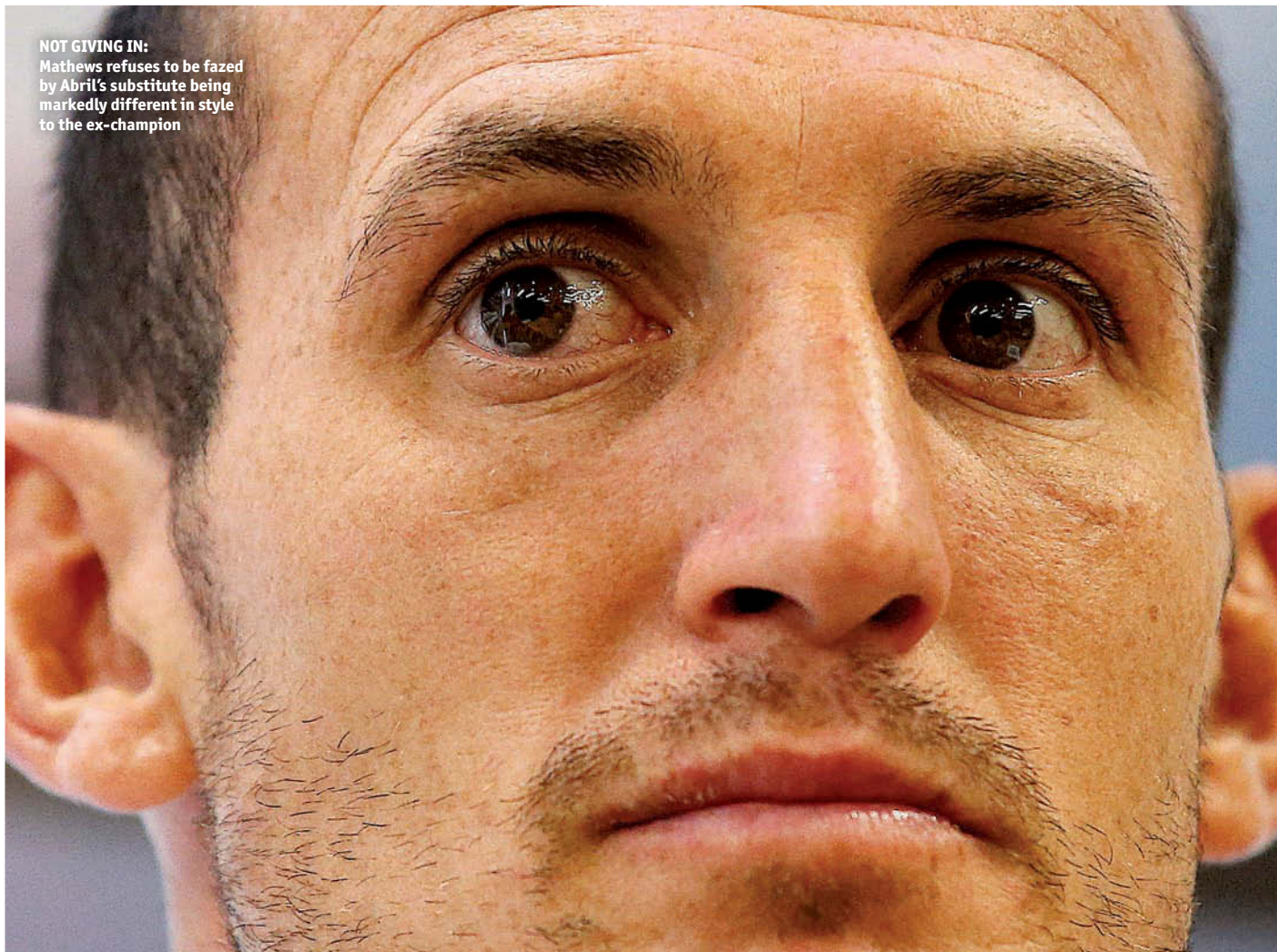
PREVIEWS

Previewing the best
upcoming fights
around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ VERY GOOD ★★★ GOOD ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/CARL RECINE

NOT GIVING IN:
Mathews refuses to be fazed
by Abril's substitute being
markedly different in style
to the ex-champion



ALL CHANGE

Mathews
faces
Barroso as
Abril pulls
out, writes
Danny
Flexen

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★★ UNDERCARD



It was 10 days before **Derry Mathews'** home city world title tilt at WBA world lightweight king Richar Abril. Mathews had sounded in good spirits but a little distracted as he summarised the strengths and weaknesses of his Cuban foe. Five minutes later, the reason for his erratic focus became clear. Derry, feeling guilty that he had misled me and, after speaking to show promoter

Frank Warren, confirmed what he had believed for some five days – Abril had withdrawn, due to a virus that had postponed their original fight date a month ago, been named Champion in Recess and Mathews would now face **Ismael Barroso**, the WBA No. 15 from Venezuela – who shares a manager and coach, Osmiri Fernandez, with Abril – for the interim belt (Darleys Perez having been upgraded from interim to full champion). My selfish dismay at having to rewrite this entire article rapidly paled in comparison

to my sympathy for both boxers. The opportunity is obviously irresistible but Barroso only fought last month

**'I THINK IT'S
MY TIME
TO TAKE
HIM INTO
THOSE LATER
ROUNDS'**

and, as he did not have another fight scheduled, may not have even been in training, while Mathews had spent his entire camp – broken briefly by March's facile knockout of substitute Gyorgy Mizsei Jnr – preparing for a slick, counter-punching orthodox boxer, only to find his replacement was an aggressive southpaw puncher. At least Mathews will be fit, though, to headline a show televised by BoxNation, and the



Matthisse-Providnikov

A war is virtually guaranteed

PAGE 20



Crawford-Dulorme

Terence moves up and aims for more glory

PAGE 22



Chavez Jr-Fonfara

Mexican looking big but focused at last

PAGE 23

new opponent's style may better suit him.

"He's a good fighter, a massive puncher, but he's got to come to Liverpool at late notice," Mathews commented. "He comes forward, and that suits my game. He's not been over eight, so I think it's my time to take him into those later rounds and get the 'w'."

Mathews would have entered the Abril match as a significant underdog, but the notice afforded Barroso and his lack of quality opposition, seriously levels the playing field. That said, Mathews seems to lose mostly when he is the favourite – and saves his finest performances for when the odds are stacked heavily against him. Defeats early in his long three-act career and more recently to Emiliano Marsili and Stephen Ormond came in bouts in which Mathews was tipped to win, and four of his nine defeats have taken place in Liverpool, two of those at Saturday's venue, the Echo Arena, where he also drew in a rematch with former stoppage victim Anthony Crolla. When the chips are down, Mathews usually finds a way through – walloping Tommy Coyle while hopelessly behind on the scorecards in 2013, halting Crolla in the fight after Marsili in 2012 and winning both British and WBA Continental belts last year following the points setback against Ormond.

Barroso is less of a known quantity than Abril. Most of his pro career has taken place in Central America, with Ismael's US debut coming in his most recent outing. He stopped the 17-2 Issouf Kinda, when the latter, having been down, was pulled out at the start of round six with blurred vision. That bout, televised on Showtime, brought Barroso fringe belts from both the WBA and WBO, but to put the result in perspective, his Bronx-based African rival had lost two of his previous three, both to unheralded boxers. While Derry has been tested – sometimes rising to the challenge, on other occasions found wanting – at a good domestic and European level, "El Tigre" has fought a collection of distinctly average fighters, even vanquishing a 10-18-5 opponent just two bouts ago. There are no notable names on his ledger, though he claims 290 amateur fights and has appeared at a Pan-American Games.

Mathews has overcome several good pressure-fighters (Coyle eventually,

TALE OF THE TAPE			
DERRY MATHEWS		ISMAEL BARROSO	
@derrymathews23		n/a	
Sep 23, 1983/31	DOB/AGE	Jan 27, 1983/32	
Liverpool	HOMETOWN	El Tiritio	
English	NATIONALITY	Venezuelan	
5ft 8 1/2ins	HEIGHT	5ft 9ins	
68ins	REACH	68ins	
37-9-2 (20)	RECORD	17-0-2 (16)	
Orthodox	STANCE	Southpaw	
Jan 18, 2003/19	DEBUT/AGE	Apr 27, 2007/24	
5/4	12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED/WON	0/0	
0	WINS OUTSIDE RESIDENT NATION	10	

Crolla and Martin Gethin to name but three), but his recent record against southpaws is a major concern. He has only faced two in the last four years and both – Marsili in January 2012 and Terry Flanagan in a *Prizefighter* final later that year – defeated him. Both dropped him, Marsili also stopping him, in the seventh. Notably, both left-handers were front-foot types.

Barroso may be inexperienced but the 32-year-old (eight months Mathews' senior) is no flat-footed neanderthal. He bounces on his toes to cut the ring off, only planting his feet when in range. Ismael's use of head and upper-body movement serves a dual purpose: to avoid shots as he attacks and facilitate the optimum angles at which to throw whipping hooks. Barroso has pretty quick hands and a dangerous straight left but is prone to prodding with his jab, as many bangers do, can lean in too much and is often over-eager and inaccurate. Barroso is mentally strong, however. Not only has he won in several foreign countries but, just two months before the Kinda victory, Ismael's wife

was murdered during a street robbery, an almost inconceivable turn of events.

Mathews has based his recent preparations in Marbella under Danny Vaughan and the removal of distractions and superb facilities at the MGM Gym have been key elements of his resurgence. Mathews, a former ABA champion, is a textbook boxer, albeit with tonnes of courage and a potent dig in either hand, as his highlight-reel finishes of Coyle (left hook) and Curtis Woodhouse (short right hand) have shown.

With vociferous local support and following presumably the best training camp of his life, Mathews can produce a career-best performance. It will be tough at times but I foresee this panning out in a similar fashion to Ricky Burns' first world title win over Roman Martinez, Mathews getting off the deck and going through fire to ultimately outbox and outlast the Venezuelan for a tight verdict.

Good-value chief support, if a little strangely situated, sees Motherwell's **Iain Butcher** take on **Luke Wilton** of Belfast for the vacant British flyweight title.

Butcher, 11-2 (4) and a good amateur, pushed former champ Kevin Satchell to the wire in 2013, but was upset over six last time out by Csaba Kovacs, 5-4 going in.

Wilton, four years older at 26, lost widely to Satchell four months before Butcher got his chance. Luke, 16-4-1 (7), was walloped in two by the naturally bigger and highly skilled Lee Haskins just over a year ago and has not fought since May. He has ability but Butcher, the more active and seasoned despite the disparity in age, can take a late stoppage and the Lonsdale Belt.

Also on the card are two Liverpool light-middles in British ruler **Liam Smith** and talented **Joe Selkirk**.

THE VERDICT Mathews can be expected to raise his game for his biggest challenge.

Photos: ACTION IMAGES



EXPERT VIEW

JACK HIRSCH
SENIOR US
CORRESPONDENT

BARROSO is somewhat unpolished. He does not cut off the ring particularly well, but he can hit as hard as his record indicates. The referee might play a vital role in this contest as Barroso's style is predicated on roughing his opponents up. I was impressed with how he methodically broke down Issouf Kinda when they fought last month. Kinda outsped him early, but Barroso remained undeterred. Barroso has never gone more than eight rounds and his defense is so-so. That might give Mathews some optimism.

FLY GUYS:
Butcher [far left] and Wilton vie for domestic glory

GEARS OF WAR

Matthyse and Provodnikov possess the weaponry to produce carnage, writes Paul Wheeler

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★☆☆☆ UNDERCARD

DATE: Saturday April 18, 2015**VENUE:** Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, New York**PROMOTER:** Banner Promotions, Golden Boy Promotions and Arano Box**TELEVISION:** BoxNation (UK) and HBO (US)**ON THE LINE:**

ACCORDING to Golden Boy Promotions chief Oscar De La Hoya, who is co-promoting the event, "a likely world title shot awaits the winner" of the 12-round light-welterweight clash between **Lucas Matthyse**, 36-3 (34) 1NC, of Argentina, and Russia's **Ruslan Provodnikov**, 24-3 (17).

BACKGROUND:

The boxing world is expecting a brutal war when livewire light-welters Matthyse (a former interim WBC titlist) and Provodnikov (an ex-WBO ruler) face off in a mouth-watering match-up between two thrilling fan-favourites. Lucas is currently ranked in the top three by the WBC and WBO, while Ruslan is rated as one of the leading five contenders by the WBC, WBA and WBO.

STRENGTHS:

A 2000 Argentine national champion and 2001 World championships participant in the unpaid ranks, 32-year-old Matthyse is a Herculean hitter with good technique. Aggressive and accurate, the Buenos Aires boxer-banger methodically stalks his adversaries, unloading a steady stream of sickening strikes, including crunching

combinations and vicious left hooks.

He is one of the best body punchers in the game, especially when launching lefts to the ribs. His last seven bouts have all been held in America, and he has never been beaten inside the distance.

An experienced amateur, Beryozovo's Provodnikov applies relentless pressure on his foes. The heavy-handed 31-year-old mauler is as rugged as they come, having never been stopped or even dropped. Undeterred by any punches that come his way, his dogged tenacity keeps opponents constantly on their toes. His left hook is a violent weapon, while more than half of his contests have been staged in the US.

WEAKNESSES:

Although there are no KO or stoppage defeats on Matthyse's résumé, he has

Photo: CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK



OCCUPIED:
Freddie Roach [left]
is unable to work
Provodnikov's corner
this weekend

Photos: STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME



REPUTATION:
Matthyse is one of the most feared punchers in the sport

TALKING POINT

MATTHYSSE and Provodnikov will undergo random VADA (Voluntary Anti-Doping Association) drug testing prior to their fight, with Team Provodnikov covering the cost of the bills.

faded veteran Jose Luis Castillo in the fifth stanza in November, Provodnikov was on the wrong end of a split decision against

Chris Algieri. Ruslan recorded a pair of knockdowns, yet failed to win over two of the judges. In 2013, he engaged in a couple of exhilarating encounters against Mike Alvarado (w rtd 10) and Timothy Bradley (l ud 12), the latter of which was chosen as BN's 2013 International Fight of the Year. Alvarado visited the mat twice, while Bradley was also felled. The Eastern European holds a wide points triumph over Corley, but was defeated unanimously on the cards by Mauricio Herrera.

WHAT THEY SAY:

Matthyse: "I only want the biggest fights against the best fighters, and this fight between Provodnikov and I will surely be Fight of the Year. Provodnikov is a warrior who never stops throwing punches, and his style suits me very well."

Provodnikov: "I'm glad that this fight is finally done. This is the fight I've been waiting for for a long time. I think this fight will be nominated for either Fight of the Year or Knockout of the Year."

OUTCOME:

Often a fast starter, Provodnikov will ferociously force himself into range from the outset. Matthyse will aim to detonate his big bombs as Ruslan charges in, but may have to do so from the back foot in the early stages. It will be a bruising, bloody battle, but Lucas can connect with the cleaner and more hurtful blows to earn a gruelling points win.

CHIEF SUPPORT:

Ghanaian **Patrick Allotey**, 30-1 (24), meets Brazilian **Patrick Teixeira**, 24-0 (20), in a light-middle 10-rounder. After winning his initial 30 contests,

Accra's Allotey suffered a maiden reverse against Charles Manyuchi via eighth-session stoppage a month ago. Sao Paulo southpaw Teixeira meanwhile won three from three in 2014, and is yet to lose.

Both are powerful punchers, but the African has only faced six opponents with winning records. Teixeira should prove too much for him to handle. A second successive defeat inside-the-distance is likely for Allotey.

THE VERDICT This one has got **Fight of the Year** contender written all over it.



EXPERT VIEW

DeMARCUS CORLEY
HAS FOUGHT BOTH MEN

I LIKE Matthyse in this one, because overall, I think he's the better fighter. Provodnikov has been trying to move his head a bit more recently, and he can certainly take a punch, but I just feel that Matthyse is the more skilled boxer and the bigger puncher. He may knock Provodnikov down, but I don't think he'll be able to knock him out. So I'll go for Matthyse on points.

TALE OF THE TAPE

LUCAS MATTHYSSE	RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
@MatthyseLucas	@RuslanProvod
Sep 27, 1982/32	DOB/AGE Jan 20, 1984/31
Buenos Aires	HOMETOWN Beryozovo
Argentina	NATIONALITY Russian
5ft 6 1/2ins	HEIGHT 5ft 6ins
69ins	REACH 66ins
36-3 (34) 1NC	RECORD 24-3 (17)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
Jun 4, 2004/21	DEBUT/AGE Dec 3, 2006/22
85	KO PERCENTAGE 63
2/0	12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED/WON 4/1

been knocked down in two of his last three outings. The South American was floored by double world titlist Danny Garcia en route to dropping a unanimous decision in a competitive September 2013 tussle, while John Molina twice sent him to the canvas a year ago in what was selected as *Boxing News'* 2014 International Fight of the Year. "The Machine" bounced back to register two knockdowns of his own, before knocking Molina out in the 11th round. Additionally, Lucas does not possess the speediest mitts.

As effective as it can be, Provodnikov's approach is nonetheless

rather one-dimensional, meaning he can be outboxed by technically superior rivals who stay out of range. The "Siberian Rocky" often neglects his defensive duties in favour of all-out attack, and is unable to sustain a consistently fervent pace into the later rounds. Furthermore, he has a short reach compared to Matthyse, plus his main coach, Freddie Roach, will not be in his corner on fight night due to training commitments with Manny Pacquiao. Roach's assistant, Marvin Somodio, will fill the void.

PAST FORM:

Following the Garcia and Molina matches, Matthyse knocked out previously unbeaten Roberto Ortiz in two sessions in September last year. Other notable victories on his ledger include inside-schedule successes against Lamont Peterson, Mike Dallas Jr,

Ajose Olusegun, Humberto Soto and DeMarcus Corley. Despite dropping Zab Judah and Devon Alexander, the Luis Barrera-coached fighter was controversially outpointed via split verdict in both of these bouts.

Five months prior to stopping



'THIS IS THE FIGHT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR FOR A LONG TIME'

Photos: MIKEY WILLIAMS/TOP RANK



DISAGREEMENT:
Both Crawford [left] and
Dulorme believe they are
the bigger and stronger man

TALE OF THE TAPE

TERENCE CRAWFORD	THOMAS DULORME
@budcrawford402	@ThomasDulorme
Sep 28, 1987/27	DOB/AGE Jan 29, 1990/25
Omaha, NE	HOMETOWN Carolina
American	NATIONALITY Puerto Rican
5ft 8ins	HEIGHT 5ft 10ins
70ins	REACH 70ins
25-0 (17)	RECORD 22-1 (14)
Switch-hitter	STANCE Orthodox
Mar 14, 2008/20	DEBUT/AGE Aug 13, 2008/18
68	KO % 61
3	WORLD TITLE FIGHTS 0

He believes his experience at a higher weight will serve him well.

"I'll be the bigger and stronger fighter," Dulorme stated. "I'll be comfortable and not only use my power, but fight with intelligence. I'm looking forward to becoming champ."

In contrast to his opponent, Crawford feels he will hold the advantage when it comes to physicality. "I'll be stronger and more powerful at 140," the Brian McIntyre-coached boxer said. "He thinks he's going to be the bigger, stronger guy in the ring. He's not. I'll be in control, and I look forward to getting my hand raised at the end."

Ranked in the top five by the WBO, WBC and WBA, Dulorme is an athletic specimen who likes to impose his will with stinging jabs and follow-up rights. However, knocking Crawford off his stride is easier said than done.

"Bud" seemingly possesses every tool in the box. He's quick, slick, slippery and smart, plus defensively sound. His power is respectable, his feet are nimble, his chin is solid, and his timing and accuracy are spot on. All of this adds up to a tough night for Thomas.

Leading with a stiff jab to head and body, Crawford will dissect Dulorme with a variety of crisp counters. After supplying a systematic pounding, it is likely that Terence will get his man out of there some time after the eighth.

On the undercard, Las Vegas-based Californian southpaw and ex-WBO super-feather championship challenger **Diego Magdaleno**, 27-1 (11), appears in a lightweight 10-rounder against Progreso, Mexico's **Luis Solis**, 15-6-4 (12).

THE VERDICT Dulorme has not lost since 2012, but brilliant Crawford will take some stopping.

GOOD FORM:
Dulorme is currently on a six-fight winning streak

THE NEXT STEP



EXPERT VIEW

BILLY NELSON
TRAINED RICKY
BURNS AGAINST
CRAWFORD

I THINK Crawford is really exceptional. He's certainly the best fighter I've ever come up against as a trainer. His timing and judging of distance are superb. Dulorme is a good boxer, but he's not at Crawford's level. It's a great fight for Crawford to showcase his talents at light-welterweight. I think he'll have too much for Dulorme and will stop him. I can see Crawford unifying the light-welter titles in the future.

After dominating at 135lbs, Crawford now craves 140lb supremacy, writes **Paul Wheeler**

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

A STELLAR 2014 saw **Terence Crawford**, 25-0 (17), cement himself not only as the best lightweight in the world, but also one of the sport's star attractions. This Saturday (April 18), the switch-hitting American stylist moves up in weight to contest the vacant WBO light-welterweight title over 12 rounds against French Guiana-born Puerto Rican **Thomas Dulorme**, 22-1 (14), at the University of Texas in Arlington. Top Rank promote, while BoxNation (UK) and HBO (US) televise.

A trio of impressive victories over quality rivals made last year a memorable one for Crawford. In March, he travelled to hostile territory in Glasgow and unanimously outpointed local favourite Ricky Burns to become the new WBO 135lb ruler. Two successful defences followed for Terence in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, where he is hugely popular. In front of vast and vociferous crowds, the 27-year-old dropped previously unbeaten Yuriorkis Gamboa four times en route to a ninth-session stoppage in June, before comprehensively outscoring Raymundo Beltran in November.

Dulorme, 25, also secured notable wins on paper in 2014, although the

manner of these triumphs left much to be desired. In March, the Carolina resident became the first man to defeat Karim Mayfield (ud 10), although it was a tedious affair. Just over eight months later, Thomas floored Hank Lundy and pipped him to a 10-round split decision in a disjointed and clinch-filled clash. Robert Garcia trained Dulorme for these two contests, but the pair have since parted ways, with Anthony Otero and Felix Pagan Pintor taking up the reins in the gym.

Despite competing predominantly as a lightweight, Crawford is no stranger to light-welter, having widely outpointed Breidis Prescott at 140lbs in March 2013 on less than a week's notice. Dulorme meanwhile has regularly fought at welterweight; a division in which he widely outscored DeMarcus Corley and Charlie Navarro in 2011, but also suffered a seventh-stanza stoppage reverse against Luis Abregu in October 2012.



WEIGHTING GAME

Chavez Jnr returns at 172lbs
against Fonfara, notes
Danny Flexen

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

IT says much about the unfulfilled potential that overshadows **Julio Cesar Chavez Jnr's** career almost as much as his famous father, that the main talking point ahead of his first fight in 13 months pertains to his weight. Once banned for using diuretics (and later cannabis, though that is less relevant here), the Mexican former WBC middleweight champion has fought a lengthy battle with the scales. For his June 2013 bout with gatekeeper Brian Vera, Chavez, who actually turned pro at 17 as a super-feather, agreed a limit of 162lbs, only to gradually renegotiate that figure up first to the super-middleweight limit of 168 and then – on the week of the fight and with Junior struggling – 173. Chavez toiled to a decision against Vera over 10 but made 168 for their 12-round rematch last March and had an easier time, throwing more shots and winning clearly on points.

Ahead of his 12-rounder this Saturday (April 18) against tough, busy Polish light-heavyweight **Andrzej Fonfara** at Carson, California's StubHub Center, Chavez has claimed a desire to compete at super-middleweight for the time being, although this match – purportedly due to the main attraction's recent inactivity, caused by promotional wrangles that saw him leave Top Rank for Al Haymon, who stages this card for Showtime – has been made at a 172lb catchweight.

That imposition should not faze Fonfara, however. The 27-year-old has entered some of his light-heavy fights below the 175lb limit and he pushed WBC ruler Adonis Stevenson hard last year, losing creditably on the cards then winning a 10-rounder in his only fight since. Tall, fit and strong, Fonfara is not a huge puncher but grinds his victims down. He did just that against a former world champion and challenger respectively in Gabriel Campillo (ko 9) and Tommy Karpency (rsf 7) – the latter would go on to upset former division leader Chad Dawson.

Chavez is also physically strong but more technically adept than the limited

Photo: CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK



GETTING READY:
Chavez shows a dedication
that has been lacking

TALE OF THE TAPE

JULIO C CHAVEZ JNR	ANDRZEJ FONFARA
@jcchavezjr1	@andrzej_fonfara
Feb 16, 1986/29	DOB/AGE Sep 23, 1983/31
Culiacan	HOMETOWN Chicago, IL
Mexican	NATIONALITY Polish
6ft 1in	HEIGHT 6ft 2 1/2ins
73ins	REACH 76ins
48-1-1 (32) 1NC	RECORD 26-3 (15)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
Sep 26, 2003/17	DEBUT/AGE Jun 3, 2006/22
5/4	12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED/WON 1/0
7	UNBEATEN MEN DEFEATED 1

Fonfara, though can be a slow starter and likes to fight at his own pace. A near-prime Sergio Martinez made him appear plodding and predictable in the Argentine's last great performance in 2012, but never-say-die Chavez still nearly halted him in a thrilling final stanza. Chavez is accurate and hit hard down at middle – especially with the left hook to the body – but the jury is out on whether he has carried his power up with him. The question marks surrounding Chavez (29) allied to Fonfara's good recent form and greater natural size make for an intriguing and probably exciting match-up.

A well-conditioned, fully focused Chavez has beaten quality operators in Andy Lee, Marco Antonio Rubio and Sebastian Zbik and should have too much for Fonfara – who has not been

stopped for almost seven years – but the Mexican will likely have to travel the full course to triumph clearly on points.

Chief support on a rather low-key bill sees 30-year-old Colombian **Oscar Escandon**, 24-1 (16), defend his WBA Interim super-bantamweight belt (the sanctioning body's third world title at 122lbs) against Mexico's **Moises Flores**, 22-0 (16). The calibre of opposition thus far faced by Flores is, on the whole, frankly disgraceful. He was still fighting novices and rivals with losing records up until two bouts ago. Escandon edged the good Canadian Tyson Cave in December and put up a great effort against accomplished Nehomar Cermeño in 2013. He is the pick to retain, via late stoppage.

THE VERDICT *Chavez Jnr, if dedicated, could be a worthy addition to the super-middleweight scene.*

Photo: ESTHER LIN/SHOWTIME



STAMINA:
Fonfara [left]
possesses a
good engine



EXPERT VIEW

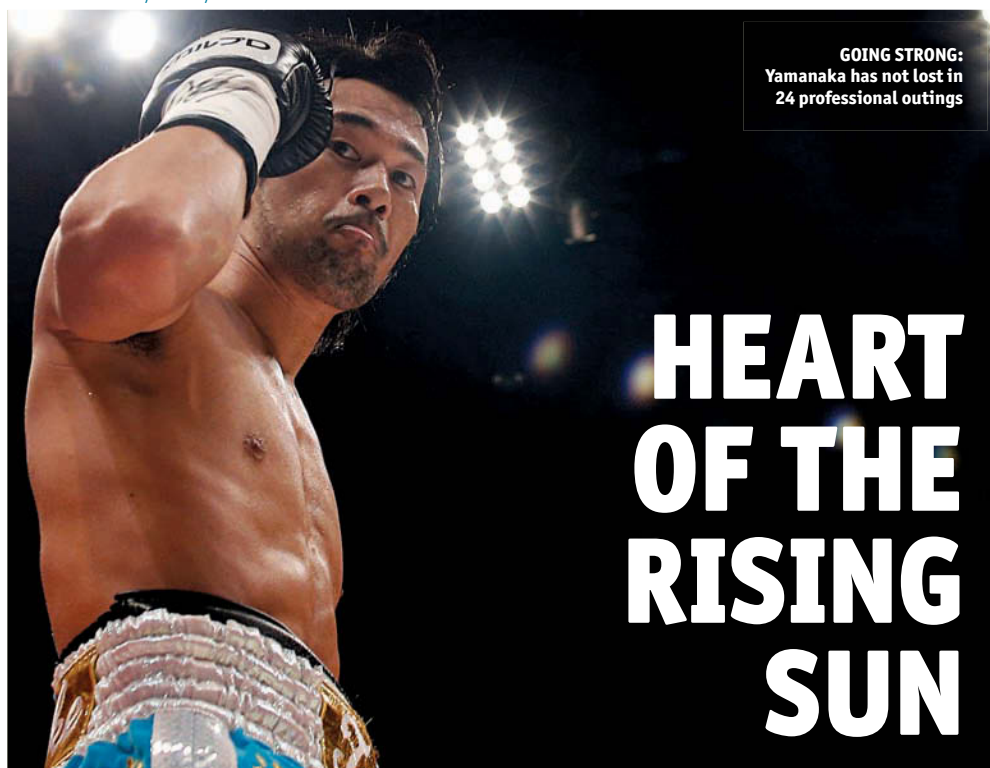
PAUL SMITH
SUPER-
MIDDLEWEIGHT
CONTENDER

FONFARA is a big lad, but I don't know what the score is with Chavez.

He's very talented but he doesn't seem to live the life.

He has the talent to make a lot of money and there's a megafight with Carl Froch there for him. He looked huge in the adverts for this fight. But with the large amount of sparring he'll do, like a typical Mexican, that will get him fit, so he should be in shape enough to rely on his talent.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS/YUYA SHINO



GOING STRONG:
Yamanaka has not lost in
24 professional outings

HEART OF THE RISING SUN

Two shows in a week underline Osaka's importance, observes Danny Flexen

★☆☆☆ APRIL 16

★★★★☆ APRIL 22

OSAKA has long been one of the main boxing hotbeds in Japan, a country that hosts a thriving scene and stages regular world title fights. Located in the southern-central region of main island Honshu, the city now rivals capital Tokyo as the principle pugilistic nerve centre in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Underlining this are two shows in seven days that feature plenty of talent and a total of three global championships up for grabs. The first, set for this Thursday (April 16) at the Prefectural Gymnasium, is arguably the weaker of the pair, but is still headlined by a good 12-round battle for the WBC bantamweight crown.

Champion **Shinsuke Yamanaka**, a 22-0-2 (16) southpaw from Tokyo, makes his eighth defence and appears to be the cream of the division. Having already retained against ex-world rulers Vic Darchinyan (pts 12), Tomas Rojas (ko 7) and Suriyan (another decision), plus quality contenders in Malcolm Tunacao and Stephane Jamoye, Yamanaka, aged 32, will start a big favourite against unbeaten Argentine **Diego Santillan**, 23-0 (15).

The South American has captured his national title and a raft of fringe straps, but his opposition has been generally poor and this is Diego's first bout outside Argentina, only his second not to take place in his home city of Salta. Santillan's last contest was against a left-hander –

although Diego Liriano is several rungs below Yamanaka – but it was back in June, nine months ago.

Santillan is aggressive but wild and open. Yamanaka, a sharp, accurate counter-puncher, can take advantage of this and force a stoppage sometime between rounds six and nine.

Six days later (Wednesday April 22), the same venue plays host to a far better card, with two world title showdowns and a domestic belt at stake. In the top-liner, 26-year-old local prodigy **Kazuto Ioka** aims to become a three-weight titlist (his nation's second) when he challenges excellent (although there is a Super

champ at the weight in Juan Francisco Estrada) WBA flyweight king

Juan Carlos Reveco, of Argentina.

Ioka, 16-1 (10), unified belts at strawweight and took WBA gold at light-fly, but came up short in his first fly challenge last year in his hometown, falling via split verdict to Thai IBF ruler Amnat Ruenroeng, who recently crushed Chinese dreams when he defeated Zou Shiming.

Now the promoter – who just so happens to be Kazuto's father and trainer, Kazunori, has brought another foreign champion over for his charge/son. Reveco, 35-1 (19), has overcome stiff opposition, including Ricardo Nunez and Karim Guerfi. He has not lost since 2007 and has won on the road, including retaining against Masayuki Kuroda in Japan two years ago.

This is a high-quality match. Ioka is taller but does not have a big reach advantage, though is fighting at home. Reveco is a fluid performer, with admirable footwork and head movement, who can fight going forward or back. Ioka is patient and precise, able to fight in close or from the outside but is very lean, while stocky Reveco has been a flyweight since 2011. It's an incredibly tough one to call and a five-star main event, but I'll go for Ioka to edge it on the scorecards.

Another Osaka man,

Katsunari Takayama,

28-7 (11), defends his IBF strawweight strap against Thailand's **Fahlan Sakkreerin Jnr**, 27-3-1 (15). The local should take a hard-fought decision.

Undefeated Japanese super-flyweight boss **Sho Ishida** defends in his home city against 14-3 (1) Tokyo man **Taiki Eto**. That one is set for 10.

THE VERDICT Some top stars are on show in the lighter weight-classes.

TALKING POINT

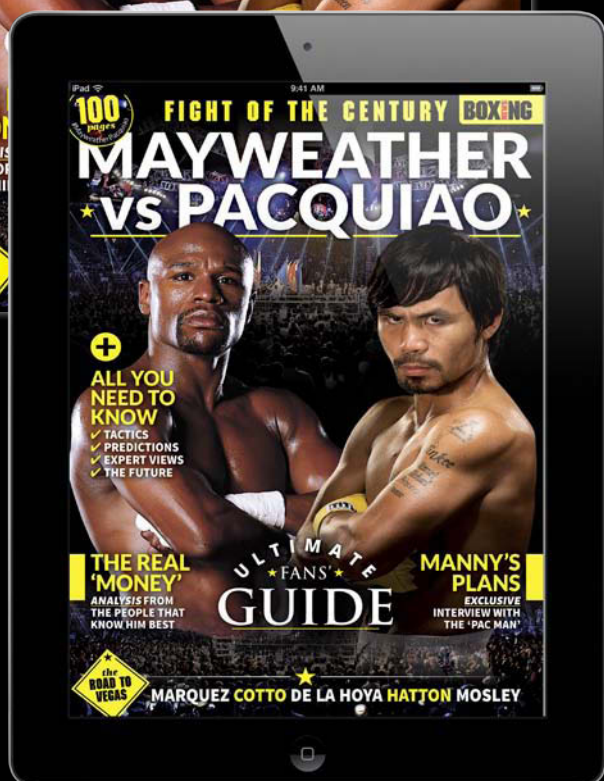
IF Yamanaka defeats Santillan, there are a number of fellow Japanese bantams he could defend his WBC crown against, including Tomoki Kameda and Ryosuke Iwasa.

Photo: SUMIO YAMADA



ASIAN ALTERCATION:
Osaka's Takayama is up
against a tough Thai

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POETIC JUSTICE

Quillin comes in overweight, but Lee grabs a draw



Jack Hirsch

RINGSIDE

🇺🇸 BROOKLYN, NY

APRIL 11

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

P

ETER QUILLIN

probably deserved to have his hand raised at the end of 12 scintillating rounds with

Andy Lee, but the

tenacity of the man from Limerick made their draw verdict one few could have a vociferous argument with. Considering the fact that Quillin failed to make weight and Lee did, the small advantage he may have gained in strength was offset by the

judges' scorecards. Call it poetic justice if you will.

Judge Guido Cavalleri had it 113-112 for Lee, Eric Marlinski for Quillin by the same margin. Glen Feldman came in at 113-113, scoring the third round only 10-9 for Quillin despite him having floored Lee. Had Feldman scored 10-8 like his counterparts and virtually everyone else, then Quillin would have gotten the nod. "I thought that Lee rallied sufficiently at the end of the round to make it 10-9," said Feldman by way of an explanation. Fair enough.

Lee entered the ring confidently, but looked booked to exit it disastrously

when with less than 30 seconds left in the opening round a right hook dropped him. Lee got up at referee Steve Willis' count of three, shaken, but Quillin did not fully follow up until he flagrantly hit Lee after the bell, perhaps frustrated he had let a golden opportunity pass.

Lee was gun-shy from having felt Quillin's power and went down again from a punch high on the head in the third. His left eye was also cut.

Quillin gently stalked

with his eyes firmly locked on the Irishman. Both were loading up whenever they got into punching range, looking to catch the other with a fight-

TALKING POINT

WITH Quillin coming in overweight and Lee having a pressing mandatory obligation against Billy Joe Saunders, an immediate rematch looks unlikely.

Photos: NAOKI FUKUDA

HONOURS EVEN:
Neither Quillin [left]
nor Lee have any serious
complaints about the verdict





Salido-Martinez

Veterans put on a show in Puerto Rico

PAGE 29



Warrington-Tubieron

Josh reigns on a strange night

PAGE 30



Galarza-Moore

Frank turns it around in Brooklyn

PAGE 32

ending blow. It was compelling stuff that had the crowd of 12,300 inside the Barclays Center on the edge of their seats. Although Quillin hails from Brooklyn, Lee's Irish contingent gave him a large degree of support as well, perhaps even more so.

The fight turned in the seventh when Lee landed a perfect short counter right hook that dropped Quillin. Andy shot his arm up in perceived victory as he went to a neutral corner, but Quillin, aka "Kid Chocolate", was not badly hurt.

For the rest of the fight both looked for a knockout. Neither wanted it to go to the cards. Quillin's blows were more

jarring and he cut Lee on the bridge of the nose in the ninth round. However, Quillin's workrate was not as high as it should have been. He bent his knees beautifully ducking under the punches, but there were long spells where he hardly threw a blow.

Quillin showed a sense of urgency in the final round and won it on all three cards. What he thought had clinched the verdict only salvaged a draw. "There's a reason judges are judges. They see it their way. I respect the decision," Quillin said sportingly.

"He dropped me early because I was lazy," Lee claimed. "I got my momentum late in the fight and boxed consistently. I understand why with two knockdowns people felt he won the decision."

Because Quillin failed to make weight, Lee's WBO middleweight title was not on the line, but of course had it been

he would have retained with the draw verdict.

For the first seven rounds of his 12 against **Danny Garcia**, it was unclear whether **Lamont Peterson** was engaging in a boxing match or auditioning for a role in *Dancing with the Stars*. Peterson perennially

ran around the ring, giving Garcia sessions by default. With the exception of the third round when he at least jabbed decently, Peterson hardly threw a punch. The Philadelphian raced to a nearly insurmountable lead.

What could Peterson have been thinking? Surely he

had to know he was falling way behind. The boos cascading around the arena for his safety-first style were telling Lamont such.

When the scorecards were read announcing that the Washington, D.C. fighter had lost a majority decision, ➤

'HE DROPPED ME EARLY BECAUSE I WAS LAZY. I BOXED CONSISTENTLY'



GAME OF TWO HALVES: Quillin starts well [above left], while Lee comes on in the later rounds [below right]



FULL RESULTS

Andy Lee (159 1/2lbs), 34-2-1 (24), d pts 12 **Peter Quillin** (160 1/2lbs), 31-0-1 (21); **Danny Garcia** (142lbs), 30-0 (17), w pts 12 **Lamont Peterson** (143lbs), 33-3-1 (17); **Felix Diaz** (142lbs), 17-0 (8), w pts 10 **Gabe Bracero** (142lbs), 23-2 (4); **Marcus Browne** (175lbs), 14-0 (11), w rsf 6 **Aaron Pryor Jr** (174 1/2lbs), 19-8-1 (12); **Errol Spence** (146 1/2lbs), 16-0 (13), w rsf 4, **Samuel Vargas** (146lbs), 20-2-1 (10); **Viktor Postol** (144lbs), 27-0 (11), w pts 8 **Jake Giurecio** (143lbs), 17-3-1 (4); **Prichard Colon** (148lbs), 14-0 (11), w rsf 9 **Daniel Calzada** (149lbs), 11-14-2; **Luis Collazo** (148lbs), 36-6 (19), w rsf 2 **Chris Degollardo** (149lbs), 10-5 (8); **Heather Hardy** (122lbs), 12-0 (2), nc 3 **Renata Domsodi** (120 1/2lbs), 11-6 (4); **Ryan Burnett** (119lbs), 8-0 (7), w ko 1 **Stephon McIntyre** (122lbs), 2-8-2.

RINGSIDE NOTES

● **FORMER** Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer was in the crowd. When his legal agreement with Golden Boy Promotions runs its course a few months from now Schaefer will be reunited with Al Haymon in a prominent role.

● **HAYMON** is bypassing the sanctioning bodies, not allowing them to bring their belts into the ring. He is marketing his fights around the boxers, not the titles they might hold.

● **NBC** is pulling out all the stops to make their new boxing series a success by having legendary broadcasters Marv Albert, Al Michaels, and Bob Costas all working the same telecast. Sugar Ray Leonard is also a staple of the broadcast team. The formula is working. The television ratings have been excellent for the first couple of shows.

● **THE** Barclays Center is a great arena for boxing. Even if your seat is far away from the ring, the big screens overhead make for a great view of the action. Between rounds replays of key moments are shown.

● **THE** last weekend in April closes out with a bang for New York boxing. In successive order will be the annual dinner of the Boxing Writers Association of America, the show at Madison Square Garden featuring Wladimir Klitschko, then the fourth annual banquet of the New York State Boxing Hall of Fame.

Photos: NAOKI FUKUDA



➤ the full impact of how he threw it all away was evident. Had Peterson made his move as little as one round earlier, the result could have been different. Peterson lost this fight as much as Garcia won it.

Judge Don Ackerman had it 114-114, but was overruled by Kevin Morgan and Steve Weisfeld, both of whom scored 115-113. I had it a little wider at 116-112. Harvey Dock refereed.

Over the first seven rounds, Garcia was not doing a particularly good job of cutting off the ring, but landed a hook on occasion. The few times that Peterson was not in full retreat he was getting beaten to the punch.

Peterson made his move in the eighth, finally coming forward and winging hard blows to the body. Garcia boxed commendably, jabbing and moving well on his feet. Peterson backed off again, spending the ninth and 10th rounds boxing from the outside, but unlike the earlier rounds was throwing punches to make it competitive. Then in the 11th round, a new Lamont Peterson emerged. He walked right through Garcia's punches, forcing him to the ropes, hammering the body and jolting him with blows upstairs. Garcia's right eye was cut, but fatigue was just as much an enemy.

Peterson continued the onslaught in the 12th. Garcia's face was a mess, but he fought back valiantly, catching Peterson from time to time, but was quickly fading like he had against Zab Judah at this venue two years ago. He hung on to win the decision then and thwarted Peterson's efforts to knock him out this evening.

"I feel like I have to go up in weight. It's affecting my performance, but I feel I did a great job," boasted Garcia.

Garcia left nothing on the table.

The same can't be said for Peterson.

Luis Collazo returned to the ring for the first time since losing to Amir Khan last May. Collazo from Brooklyn, had what amounted to a gentle workout in stopping Mexican **Chris Degollardo**



TOO LATE: Peterson makes his charge [above right] against Garcia but it's not enough

in the second round of a scheduled 10. Southpaw Collazo manoeuvred his outclassed opponent into a corner and unleashed a barrage of blows which forced referee Shada Murdaugh to stop it. No official time was given.

Touted Ukrainian **Viktor Postol** should at the very least be on the verge of a world title fight at this point of his career, not buried on the undercard of a big show. Postol did not make many new fans with his lacklustre victory over **Jake Giuriceo** from Youngstown, Ohio. Postol cut Giuriceo and at various points looked like he might stop him, but never could find closure. Postol ultimately



NO END IN SIGHT: Postol [left] fails to find a finish against Giuriceo

settled for a unanimous eight-round decision that was scored 80-72 (twice) and 79-73.

It is time that **Aaron Pryor Jnr** called it a career. His motivation is just not there any longer. He spent the majority of his fight with unbeaten Staten Islander **Marcus Browne** holding instead of punching. At the end of the sixth, Pryor, from Cincinnati, was pulled out. Later he was taken to the hospital for observation.

The rule of a contest ending on an unintentional headbutt should be changed. Brooklyn's **Heather Hardy** was easily beating **Renata Domsodi** when a clash of heads opened a cut over the Budapest women's right eye in the third round of their eight. The blood flowed and the fight was stopped. Because four rounds had not been completed the match was declared a No Contest. Hardy was deprived by the result.

Felix Diaz, a 2008 Olympic gold medalist from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, dropped Brooklyn's **Gabe Bracero** in the eighth and ninth to take a unanimous 10-round decision by scores of 97-91, 98-90, and 96-92.

Desoto, Texas southpaw **Errol Spence** dominated in halting Toronto's **Samuel Vargas** at 1-45 of the fourth of a scheduled 10. A right behind the ear dropped Vargas in the second round.

Puerto Rico's **Prichard Colon** used his height and range to score repeatedly against Denver's **Daniel Calzada**. The cumulative punishment was enough for Calzada to be pulled out at 1-38 of the ninth round of their 10.

Belfast's **Ryan Burnett** opened the show in impressive fashion when he knocked out Atlanta's **Stephon McIntyre** at 2-59 of the opening round of a six. A single left hook to the body ended the fight. **BN**

THE VERDICT Lee times his late run almost to perfection, while Peterson messes his up.

Photos: SUMIO YAMADA



A REAL 'ROCKY' STORY

 SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
APRIL 11

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

ROMAN "ROCKY" MARTINEZ and **Orlando Salido** are two fighters who have upset the odds multiple times throughout their respective careers. So it was only appropriate that the underdog come out on top when they finally squared off against each other. In this case, that was Martinez, who scored two knockdowns and fought off a late surge from the incumbent Salido to win a 12-round unanimous decision.

Vega Baja's Martinez, 32, now holds the WBO super-featherweight belt; the third time he's won that title. All this for a fighter considered an afterthought following a decisive stoppage loss to Mikey Garcia in 2013. Sonora, Mexico's Salido knows all too well what it's like to be written off – and the vindication that sometimes follows. After his own defeat to the same Garcia, he was seen as little more than fodder for the ballyhooed Vasyl Lomachenko in March 2014. Salido had other plans, using his veteran savvy (and extra weight, having forfeited his WBO 126lb title on the scales) to flummox Lomachenko en route to a unanimous decision win.

Salido's Lazarus-like resurgence made him a decided favourite against Martinez, a two-time champ fighting in his native

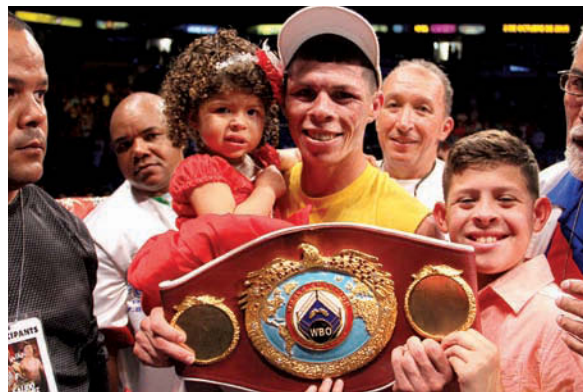
Martinez beats Salido to reignite his career, observes Kenneth Bouhairie

Puerto Rico at the Coliseo José Miguel Agreló. Promoters titled this main event "The War", an ambitious enough label that the action managed to live up to.

Salido pushed the action early on but he was matched by a Martinez eager to fight fire with fire and smart enough to know when to do so. A straight right midway through the third nearly drove Salido through the ropes. He responded instantly by throwing Martinez to the ground. With 30 seconds remaining in the round, Martinez fired two quick jabs followed by another straight right that deposited Salido on the seat of his pants.

Salido was undaunted but Martinez appeared to have an answer for everything. He used his jab and impressive footwork to keep Salido at bay. Any time the Mexican closed the distance, he scored with short shots. Martinez refused to wilt. The fifth

POWER OF THREE: Martinez grabs this belt for the third time



featured more exchanges and once again Martinez got the better of them. A chopping right sent Salido's legs into tailspin – long enough for another right to drive him to the canvas.

A re-energised Salido came out swinging in the sixth. Two big rights caught Martinez flush but he took them, landing a right of his own toward the end of the round. Salido enjoyed a strong seventh, forcing Martinez to get on his bike. The eighth and ninth featured heavy trading that kept the crowd standing. Martinez went back to outboxing his foe in the 10th – he may have lost the championship rounds but Salido was deducted a point for low blows in the 11th, effectively ending any chance he had had at a decision. Final cards read 116-109, 115-110 and 114-111. Rematch, anyone?

In lightweight action, Puerto Rico's **Jose A Gonzalez**, who lost a WBO challenge to Ricky Burns, was awarded a five-round technical decision over **Marvin Quintero** when the ringside doctor ruled that the latter's ankle injury was too serious for him to continue.

The action was just beginning to heat up when the injury occurred. Following a tentative first two rounds, Gonzalez turned it up in the third, taking the fight to Tijuana southpaw Quintero. Marvin responded in kind, pinning Gonzalez against the ropes and unloading to his ribs. They were trading toe-to-toe by round's end.

The action sizzled in the fourth and early in the fifth, even as Quintero began hopping around the ring as if he had sprained something. The fight was called off moments before the sixth was to start.

Puerto Rican **McWilliams Arroyo** had his way with late substitute **Victor Ruiz** of Tijuana, dropping him early in the first before inducing the stoppage at 1-32 of the third. Arroyo won the vacant WBO Latino flyweight strap.

THE VERDICT Martinez has never lost in Puerto Rico and could soon get a unification clash with unbeaten compatriot Jose Pedraza, if the IBF No. 1 snares the crown.

FULL RESULTS

Roman Martinez (129 1/4lbs), 29-2-2 (17), w pts 12 **Orlando Salido** (130lbs), 42-13-2 (29); **Jose A Gonzalez** (134 3/4lbs), 24-1 (19), w rtd 5 **Marvin Quintero** (135 1/4lbs), 26-5 (22); **McWilliams Arroyo** (111 3/4lbs), 16-2 (11), w rsf 3 **Victor Ruiz** (111 3/4lbs), 18-5 (13); **Yoandris Salinas** (124 1/4lbs), 21-1-2 (14), w ko 1 **Ricardo Alvarado** (126 1/4lbs), 7-5 (6); **John Karl Sosa** (146 3/4lbs), 13-0 (6), w pts 8 **Joaquin Chavez** (142 3/4lbs), 9-14-3 (2); **Zachary Ochoa** (140 1/4lbs), 11-0 (5), w pts 8 **Moises Ruiz** (140 3/4lbs), 5-3 (4); **Ryan Martin** (139lbs), 12-0 (7), w ko 4 **Miguel Soto** (135lbs), 12-6 (12); **Roy Mendez** (112lbs), 2-0, w pts 4 **Alexis Diaz** (108 1/2lbs), 0-9-1.

WARRINGTON'S WAR

Bill-topper proves a decent watch despite the margin of local's victory

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH

LEEDS

APRIL 11

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

H

ARD as nails" was how **Josh Warrington** referred to Filipino, **Dennis Tubieron** at the conclusion of the pair's 12-rounder

for the vacant WBC International featherweight title at a bouncing Leeds Arena and it's difficult to come up with a better description of the gutsy visitor. While ultimately beaten by a wide margin, Tubieron simply refused to wilt under pressure and time and again fired back to keep his hopes alive.

With soon-to-be-IBF title challenger Lee Selby looking on from ringside, there were a couple of occasions, most notably having endured a torrid seventh, when Tubieron returned to his corner looking like he might just have had enough, but from somewhere he summoned up the will to continue and in so doing contributed to an always-watchable encounter.

Along the way, there was a long round, the fifth, and then a short round, and at one point a beach ball punted into the ring which caused action to be halted momentarily. With all that, and a crowd jumping around and chanting throughout, Tubieron must have wondered what on earth was happening.

Scotland's Victor Loughlin refereed while the judges, England's John Keane, Italy's Massimo Barrovecchio and Finland's Esa Lehtosaari, scored 119-109, 119-109 and 119-110 respectively.

Having fought to a contentious 10-round draw at York Hall four months earlier, Leeds-born (but Brentwood-based) **Martin J Ward** and Rossington's **Maxi Hughes** renewed acquaintances in a bout for the vacant WBC International super-featherweight title. This time though there were no arguments as to the winner, Ward emerging victorious when Hughes, having sustained a badly broken nose, retired on his stool at the end of the fifth.



HEAT OF BATTLE: Warrington [left] piles into Tubieron, who will not yield and [below] Josh enjoys his new belt



Andy Whittle

RINGSIDE

There hadn't been much daylight between the pair in the early rounds, Ward being shaken by a combination upstairs in the second but increasingly on the offensive. The balance appeared to be swaying in his favour from the mid-point of the fourth before a punishing right in the next stanza caused the damage which shortly afterwards would force Maxi to pull out.

Unused judges were Lehtosaari, Keane and Loughlin, while Mr Barrovecchio refereed.

With his vacant British light-welterweight title bout against Chris

Jenkins having been postponed after the Welshman picked up a stomach virus, Huddersfield's **Tyrone Nurse** stayed busy with a

10-rounder against Middleton's previously unbeaten **Liam Taylor**. The latter, despite stepping in at just a couple of days' notice, turned in a gutsy, hard-working performance.

Taylor, down early in the seventh, ultimately succumbed to the more experienced Yorkshireman who, though a fairly handy winner, finished with a cut below the left eye. The three scoring judges (who one assumes had already been booked to score the initial British



COURAGE UNDER FIRE: Hughes [above left, on left] suffers a broken nose against Ward, while Taylor [above right] tries hard against Nurse
CLEAR WINNERS: Ajisafe [left, on right] triumphs in the second, Cartwright [below right] towards the end of his four-rounder with Sankowski



title bout), Mike Alexander, John Keane and Victor Loughlin, had it 97-93, 97-92 and 98-92 respectively.

Domestic light-heavyweight champ **Bob Ajisafe**, his vacant Commonwealth title contest against Kenya's Daniel Wanyonyi being another casualty in the days leading up to the bout, found himself in against Georgia's **George Kandelaki**.

Leeds' Bob needed less than a quarter of a scheduled eight-rounder to secure victory, referee Mr Alexander intervening with 67 seconds of the second remaining.

TALKING POINT

WITH a long round, a short session, a rogue beach ball, a fighter (Tubieron) wearing jeans and Johnny Nelson encouraging the crowd, this was a surreal show at times.

Southpaw Ajisafe sent the visitor over backwards early in the second and Kandelaki was given another count when only the ropes prevented him from reacquainting himself with the canvas.

The end came when the Georgian was dropped for a second time by a short hook, a halt being called despite Kandelaki bouncing straight back up. Unbeaten Boston

light-heavy **Callum Johnson** had to wait until after the main event to take to the ring for a scheduled six-threes against lanky Spaniard

Jose Manuel Iglesias. Truth told, he'd have probably been given a tougher test by Julio or Enrique Iglesias! Just 77 seconds of the opener had elapsed when Steve Gray completed his count over the stricken visitor who, having failed to land a punch of note, found himself staring up from the canvas for a second time.

Reece Cartwright, of Leeds, got proceedings underway by halting Poland's **Artur Sankowski** 86 seconds into the last of a four-threes.

Having been softened up by a couple of combinations downstairs and a right uppercut in the middle rounds, Sankowski made a better fist of things early in the last, scoring with a glancing right. His temerity however brought about his downfall, Cartwright responding with half a dozen head shots which, as the Pole cowered and turned away, brought referee Gray's intervention.

Dubliner **Jono Carroll**, having his first outing since claiming the *Prizefighter* title at York Hall in December, eased to his sixth straight victory in what was his first six-rounder, referee Alexander seeing him a shut-out 60-54 winner over Spain's **Carlos Perez**.

Already well ahead, Jono connected with a left in the fifth which snapped back the Spaniard's head and his dominance continued into the last, a combination to the body and a telling uppercut being the pick of his work.

Hull's **Carl Chadwick**, who picked up damage below both eyes along the way, registered his first KO victory in his second pro bout, a right to the chin leaving Stoke's tattooed **Kevin Hanks** down for the count in his own corner 88 seconds into the second of a scheduled four-threes overseen by Mike Alexander.

Relaxed throughout, Brixton's **Isaac Chamberlain** secured his second successive win, a 40-37 four-threes victory over Skegness puncher **Jason Jones**, who finished with a bloody nose. Steve Gray officiated.

THE VERDICT Warrington wins well but a section of his supporters remain a cause for concern.

FULL RESULTS

Josh Warrington (125lbs), 21-0 (4), w pts 12 **Dennis Tubieron** (125lbs), 19-4-2 (8); **Martin J Ward** (129 1/4lbs), 11-0-2 (6), w rtd 5 **Maxi Hughes** (129lbs 7oz), 13-2-2 (2); **Tyrone Nurse** (143lbs), 31-2 (6), w pts 10 **Liam Taylor** (144lbs 2oz), 11-1 (4); **Bob Ajisafe** (174lbs), 15-2 (6), w rsf 2 **George Kandelaki** (172lbs 5oz), 14-13-1 (4); **Callum Johnson** (178lbs), 12-0 (8), w ko 1 **Jose Manuel Iglesias** (174lbs), 8-4 (3); **Jono Carroll** (132lbs 5oz), 7-0 (1), w pts 6 **Carlos Perez** (136lbs 1oz), 4-3 (1); **Carl Chadwick** (142lbs), 2-0 (1), w ko 2 **Kevin Hanks** (142lbs 9oz), 3-7; **Reece Cartwright** (158lbs 7oz), 6-0 (1), w rsf 4 **Artur Sankowski** (156lbs 3oz), 2-6 (1); **Isaac Chamberlain** (198lbs 5oz), 2-0, w pts 4 **Jason Jones** (199lbs 5oz), 0-5.

FRANK'S FIGHT-CHANGER



Jack Hirsch

RINGSIDE

BROOKLYN, NY

APRIL 10

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

THE three favourites in the *ShoBox* fights all took care of business in their scheduled eight-rounders. So who looked best in doing so? That honour would have to go to Ukraine's **Sergiy Derevyanchenko**, who dismantled Mexico's **Alan Campa**, halting him at 1-17 of the fourth. However, the biggest buzz was created in the nominal main event by **Frank Galarza**, who knocked out Belgium's **Sheldon Moore** after having struggled with him so mightily.

Fighting before his home crowd at Aviator's Sports and Events Center (DiBella Entertainment promoted), Galarza looked unimpressive until he found the explosive punches to send the crowd home in a frenzy.

Photo: ED DILLER



BLESSED RELIEF:
Galarza cannot mask his joy at getting rid of Moore

TALKING POINT

KHYTROV and **Derevyanchenko** continue the superb recent form of Eastern European fighters like **Sergey Kovalev** and **Artur Beterbiev**.

Moore stood in front of Galarza for the first two rounds making him miss and countering with annoying right hands on occasion. Galarza's only success was when he went to the body. It was all about timing and Galarza's was just not there. I was seated

near Galarza's corner where by round three, his handlers were starting to worry. However, moments later that was replaced by pure ecstasy when Frank landed a hellacious left hook that made Moore stumble backwards. A follow-up flurry put him down where he was counted out at 1-31 of the round by referee Benji Esteves.

Derevyanchenko, who reportedly had close to 500 amateur contests, pressured the much taller Campa all fight. Campa used the full ring, but Derevyanchenko never allowed him to get comfortable. By the end of the second, Sergiy was in a rhythm, moving in on Campa faster than the Mexican could get away. He frequently forced Campa to the ropes, hammering the head and body. Late in the second, a right dropped Campa for a nine-count.

Derevyanchenko's relentless attack carried over into the fourth when he dropped Campa twice. The action resumed after the second knockdown of the round, but with Campa in survival mode, referee Ricky Gonzalez made a superb stoppage.

Ukrainian **Ievgen Khytrov**, a former World amateur champion, is based in Brooklyn, as is stablemate Derevyanchenko. Although he was not particularly dominant on this evening, he had an invaluable learning experience in winning a unanimous decision over previously unbeaten **Aaron Coley** by scores of 78-74, and 79-73 twice. It was the first time in nine fights that Khytrov was forced to travel the distance.

Coley, a southpaw, was very slick, presenting angles and keeping Khytrov off with his jab. Having trouble landing on his elusive foe, Khytrov, to his credit, kept the pressure on until fatigue slowed Coley down. Coley would be stunned now and then by a hard right as Khytrov put rounds in the bank. Although well beaten, the Californian gave a good account of himself by taking Khytrov into unfamiliar territory.

THE VERDICT Fair play to Galarza for getting himself out of trouble with a fine finish.

A crushing left hook sets Galarza up for a hard-fought win over Moore

FULL RESULTS

Frank Galarza (154lbs), 17-0-2 (11), w ko 3 **Sheldon Moore** (153lbs), 13-3-1 (9); **Ievgen Khytrov** (161 1/2lbs), 9-0 (8), w pts 8 **Aaron Coley** (160 1/2lbs), 9-1-1 (6); **Sergiy Derevyanchenko** (163lbs), 28-1 (11), w rsf 4 **Alan Campa** (165lbs), 13-2 (9); **Patrick Day** (153lbs), 10-1-1 (6), w rsf 1 **Colby Courter** (153 1/2lbs), 6-6 (5); **Misato Kamegawa** (119lbs), 0-0-1, d pts 4 **Elisa Collaro** (123lbs), 0-0-1; **Wesley Ferrer** (136 1/2lbs), 8-0 (5), w rsf 2 **Bryan Timmons** (134lbs), 2-4 (2); **Shawn Cameron** (154lbs), 9-0 (4), w pts 6 **Aaron Drake** (152 1/2lbs), 14-8 (9); **Rafael Vasquez** (122lbs), 14-1 (12), w rsf 2 **Andre Wilson** (119 1/2lbs), 14-9-1 (12); **Travis Peterkin** (176 1/2lbs), 15-0 (7), w rsf 5 **Donta Woods** (180 1/2lbs), 8-4 (7); **Mikkel LesPierre** (141lbs), 7-0-1 (3), w pts 8 **Carl McNickles** (140 1/2lbs), 8-8 (6).

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Daniel Herbert

RINGSIDE

BETHNAL GREEN

APRIL 11

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

SHAMROCK BOXING'S show at York Hall was hit by multiple pull-outs, including an arm injury to Liverpool's Ryan Farrag only a couple of days before, but seven bouts entertained a crowd that grew as the evening progressed.

Topping the bill was a six-rounder featuring **Michael Walsh** of the Cromer fighting family and the 30-year-old, having his first contest for two years, wasted no time against **Ignac Kassai**. Featherweight Walsh, looking ripped, started fast as he targeted the body and also used left hooks upstairs. A right dropped the Hungarian southpaw, who not long after was down again, although partly from a stumble as well as punches.

Kassai tried holding but just couldn't keep Walsh off and when a sustained attack pinned the import on the ropes, covering up but not firing back, referee Kieran McCann intervened with 2-13 on the clock. It was Michael's fourth consecutive first-round victory.

Nathan Graham from Aylesbury met one of the better Eastern Europeans seen in British rings in Bulgaria's **Konstantin Alexandrov** and had to settle for a clear but slightly frustrating 60-54 points victory after six rounds at middleweight. Mr McCann refereed.

Taller Alexandrov never threw enough punches to win a session, but his tight guard left Graham with little to aim at. Nathan did land some shots to the body, plus the occasional uppercut through the middle, but Alexandrov showed a sound chin. Graham, who turned southpaw for a while in round five, ended with a welt on his right cheek.

Southampton hopeful **Joe Pigford** had sold plenty of tickets and his noisy fans went home happy when he needed

Photos: PHILIP SHARKEY



INEXORABLE:
Walsh [right] will not be
denied against Kassai

WHIRLWIND WALSH

**Michael
returns with a
swift victory**

just 1-46 of round one to halt Lydney's **Lewis van Poetsch**. It was scheduled for six at middleweight.

Van Poetsch just couldn't cope with Pigford's power. A right put the Gloucestershire boxer down early on, then another punch from the same hand dropped him heavily by the ropes. He was up as Mr McCann's count reached eight but it was waved off, with the towel coming in from the corner at the same time.

Bexleyheath lightweight **Yusuf Safa** stayed unbeaten with a comprehensive 60-54 points victory from referee Jeff Hinds over **Michael Stupart**, of Dunfermline, in a six-rounder.

Stupart was game enough but too often left himself open as he lunged in – and Safa took full advantage, nailing him with hard shots from either hand. A right cross hurt the Scot in the second before that blow produced the same result a round later. But Stupart never stopped trying and actually landed a couple late on.

The remaining three contests were four-rounders, with Hatfield's **Tom Little** needing until only 2-51 of the second to halt a reluctant **Larry Olubamiwo** from Hackney.

Olubamiwo offered little as he backed off, often turning away to avoid Little's blows. In round two a big attack had Larry falling out through the second and third ropes, being pushed back into the ring by his corner when referee Hinds'

count had reached 15. (Twenty seconds are allowed in such circumstances). When Little's next assault had Olubamiwo crumpling to the deck, the third man called a halt.

Well-built Clacton light-middle **Joe Hurn** harried Hounslow's winless **Harjinder Gill** into a stoppage with five seconds left in the opening session. Hurn unloaded with both hands to head and body, and with Gill soaking it up while offering nothing in reply, Mr Hinds waved it off.

Opening the show, Luton light-heavyweight **Marco Stephenson** hurt **Mitch Mitchell** with a big right in round three, but had to survive a last-round rally from the Lincoln man before earning a 39-38 verdict from referee McCann.

THE VERDICT Promoter Mervyn Turner will hope for better luck with pull-outs on his June 27 show here.

FULL RESULTS

Michael Walsh (126 3/4lbs), 11-0 (11), w rsf 1 **Ignac Kassai** (128lbs), 18-40-2 (5); **Nathan Graham** (159lbs), 17-6-1 (6), w pts 6 **Konstantin Alexandrov** (158 1/2lbs), 4-7 (0); **Joe Pigford** (157lbs), 7-0 (6), w rsf 1 **Lewis van Poetsch** (163lbs), 4-19 (0); **Yusuf Safa** (132 1/2lbs), 4-0 (2), w pts 6 **Michael Stupart** (131lbs), 4-23-2 (1); **Tom Little** (239lbs), 6-3 (2), w rsf 2 **Larry Olubamiwo** (277lbs), 10-12 (9); **Joe Hurn** (157 1/2lbs), 2-0 (2), w rsf 1 **Harjinder Gill** (156lbs), 0-12-1; **Marco Stephenson** (176 3/4lbs), 4-2 (2), w pts 4 **Mitch Mitchell** (179lbs), 5-26-2 (4).



UNINTERESTED:
Olubamiwo [left]
does not offer
much against Little

Photos: iSTOCK PHOTO



'GOOD' FAT:
Nuts and Greek
yoghurt make
a useful snack

FAT'S AMAZING

Dr James Morton explains how the right type and amount of this macronutrient can be beneficial to a boxer

WHY

CONTRARY to popular belief, fat is essential for human health, given that fat molecules are a crucial component of cell membranes and that fat is also a vital source of energy during rest and exercise. On the flip-side, fat contains more calories than carbohydrate and protein and it is therefore tempting to reduce daily fat intake when making weight. While the traditional advice was to reduce daily fat intake when attempting to lose body-fat, contemporary research (usually misunderstood by social media) now suggests that fat intake should actually be increased during a weight-loss program. In this article, I outline the basic types of dietary fat we typically consume each day, while also providing some simple recommendations on how to incorporate fat into your weight-loss programme.

TYPE

FAT molecules are typically classified as saturated and unsaturated (which can further be categorised as monounsaturated or

INGREDIENT:
Avocado can be
added to salads



polyunsaturated) based on their chemical structure. Saturated fats are generally solid at room temperature and are often present in animal sources e.g. red meat, butter, cheese, processed meats such as sausages, burgers etc. Unsaturated fats are often liquid at room temperature (e.g. olive oil) and are also highly present in foods such as oily fish, nuts and avocados etc. The Omega-3 fatty acids are considered an essential fatty acid (meaning we must obtain them from our diet) and oily fish (salmon, mackerel, sardines etc) and some plant sources (e.g. flaxseed) are particularly rich in these fats. You should notice that many foods considered high in fat are also rich in other important food groups such as protein and important vitamins and minerals such as zinc and iron. For this reason, eliminating many of the foods described above often means that other components of the diet would suffer.

It is worth noting that fat contains more energy per gramme (nine calories) than both carbohydrate and protein (four calories each).

Despite the health benefits of ingesting dietary fat (especially unsaturated sources), ultimately we must remember the golden rule of weight-loss, that is, you must expend more energy than you consume. In the context of fat intake, it is therefore often problematic to consume high fat in a diet given that you can very quickly increase your daily energy intake, the very thing which we should aim to decrease during weight-loss. As a general rule of thumb, I often believe that if an athlete consumes high-quality protein and natural food sources at appropriate times of the day, daily fat intake often takes care of itself.

ESSENTIAL:
You can get
Omega-3 from
oily fish



TIMING

FAT is stored in our bodies in both adipose tissue (this is the fat we are trying to lose during weight-loss) but also in our muscles (this is a particularly important energy source during exercise). Given that we will use 'muscle fat' for energy during training but that we also need to replace it for use during the next training session, it is therefore important that post-exercise meals and snacks between training sessions also contain some dietary fat. In practice, this can simply be making oily fish part of your post-training meal, consuming Greek yoghurt as a snack and also adding nuts and/or avocados to salads and snacks (or adding them to smoothies). It is also worth noting that fat takes longer to digest so it is important to not consume overly high-fat foods prior to training or competition e.g. red meat, cheese etc.

AMOUNT

THE amount of fat you can consume each day (while losing weight) is dependent on your training intensity and volume, how much weight you need to lose, how long you have to make your target weight and perhaps more importantly, the amount of

HIGHLY PROCESSED MEATS SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL TIMES

daily carbohydrate you consume. In my experience of working with professional boxers, footballers and cyclists, I have generally found daily fat requirements to be in the region of 1-1.5g/kg of body mass per day. For example, a 70kg athlete could consume 70-105 g of fat per day. This fat intake should be obtained from a variety of both saturated (e.g. eggs, dairy) and unsaturated (e.g. oily fish, nuts, avocados etc) fat-rich foods. Although red meat

could be limited to two-three times per week, highly processed meats such as sausages and burgers should likely be avoided at all times when a fighter has to make weight.

FAT CHECKLIST

1. ENSURE OILY FISH IS CONSUMED AT LEAST THREE TIMES PER WEEK

Make choices such as salmon, mackerel, sardines, herring etc for lunches and dinner. Tinned salmon and sardines can also form the basis of a protein and fat-rich snack.

2. DON'T THROW AWAY THE YOLK AT BREAKFAST

Eggs remain one of the most effective protein sources and the yolk is also a good source of both saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. It is a myth that consuming two-three eggs each morning will raise your cholesterol.

3. ADD AVOCADOS AND NUTS TO SALADS AND SNACKS

Avocados and nuts (a palm-sized portion) are a simple source of fat to add to salads and snacks. Both sources could also be added to smoothies and are especially useful as mid-afternoon snacks.

4. AVOID DIETARY FADS

Remember, the bottom line remains that we must expend more calories than we consume in order to lose weight. Adding spoonfuls of coconut oil to coffee are calories we simply do not need!

5. AVOID PROCESSED FOODS

Highly processed foods such as convenience and confectionary products (e.g. ready meals, ice cream, crisps, processed meats etc) are often rich in both saturated fat and sugar and should be avoided at all costs!



● Dr James Morton PhD is an Associate Professor at Liverpool John Moores University and the nutritionist for Liverpool FC. He works with Team Sky and has also helped Derry Mathews, Paul Edwards, Tony Dodson, Rocky Fielding and David Price.



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**WHAT'S HOT IN THE WORLDS
OF TRAINING, TECHNIQUE,
NUTRITION AND GEAR**



LIAM SMITH FOOD EXTRA

This week's My Diet subject expands upon his nutritional philosophy and his family's role in it



HOW HAYE DOES IT

Heavyweight David begins training for his comeback and provides us with a unique insight



TRICKS OF THE MIND

Boxing Science's Edd Thomson on learning and feedback in boxing



THE BEST GEAR

We review some of the finest products on the market, including gloves and clothing

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JASON CAIRNDUFF

Undefeated British light-middleweight champion Liam Smith, who fights in hometown Liverpool on Saturday, puts his nutritional regime under the scrutiny of Dr James Morton

GOOD HABITS:
Smith focuses on when and what he eats

{ **NEW SERIES** }

MY DIET

Liam Smith

Photo: iSTOCK PHOTO

PHILOSOPHY

I DON'T have a particular philosophy, I just eat clean and drink lots of water. My dad helps me and Callum [super-middleweight prospect and Liam's younger brother], he sorts out our food every day. We use MuscleFood [sports nutrition company] now, so every morning my dad will ask us what we want out to defrost and he'll get our dinner and tea sorted. He gets our meals ready for us for when we're done in the gym.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

Although Liam suggests he hasn't got a philosophy, the fact that he orders his food from a reputable company as well as having his dad take the lead in his food preparation already suggests he has good habits. Having said that, keeping a log of food intake alongside quality of training and rates of weight-loss could help to fine-tune his strategy.

BREAKFAST

IT depends on what we're doing that day, usually we just have porridge. We don't have a set meal for breakfast every day, sometimes it will just be a protein drink and a protein bar, but it's mainly porridge. Me and Callum will eat before training because it takes us about half an hour in the car to get to the gym so that gives us time to digest it.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

Porridge is a perfect breakfast given it is a good choice of carbohydrate though depending on whether he has it with milk or water, he could be lacking in protein at breakfast. This is important as our muscles need protein after overnight fasting and also to provide some amino acids for the morning training session. A whey protein drink is a useful addition though consuming three eggs (as an omelette, poached or scrambled etc) is also a convenient way of providing some vitamins and minerals.

LUNCH

ON our way home we'll call my dad and he'll start cooking once we're on the motorway. It can be a range of things for lunch. It used to just be chicken or fish but now we have things like ostrich steak with baby potatoes and some spinach. It will be things like salmon steak, tuna steak or poached chicken.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

These foods sound perfect to promote recovery from the gym



'BEEFY' BY NATURE:
Smith lives up to his moniker
but may wish to limit red meat
to three times per week max

and are a healthy blend of protein, carbohydrate, fat and vegetables.

DINNER

IT'S very similar to lunch, and it changes every day. It's usually some sort of steak with some vegetables, like asparagus. It's usually meat and vegetables. But sometimes I'll have pasta as well. Sometimes we'll also have a small bag of rice as well or a teacup of pasta with the meal. The amount of times we train changes each day, we usually do two sessions but sometimes it's one or three and we have days off, so our meals and the portion sizes are tailored around that.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

Again, these dinner options sound perfect and it's great to see that Liam is aware of the importance of changing his carbohydrate intake in his evening meal according to the training demands of his day. This is often where many fighters make mistakes. Depending on the magnitude of weight-loss required, it may be beneficial to limit red meat to two-three times per week (given that it is higher in fat) and stick to chicken, turkey or white fish in the evening meal.

SNACKS

WE have protein bars or protein cookies, little things you can snack on. Sometimes we'll have snacks with us to have after a session in the gym. Like I said, we have a half-hour drive from the gym, me and Callum, so we've got about 40 minutes from the time we finish until we're home and can eat. We have recovery drinks which fill you up until you get home.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

These snacks are appropriate though you could also experiment with some home-made smoothies such as Greek yoghurt, mixed berries and mixed nuts. This would also provide a high-protein, moderate-fat and low-carbohydrate snack. A protein drink can be useful for after a workout at the gym,


especially when the access to whole food may be delayed. Depending on magnitude of weight-loss required, this could be a protein-only drink as delaying carbohydrate for another hour or so will help to prolong fat-burning on the way home.

EXTRAS

I JUST use CNP Pro Recover, a recovery shake. Two scoops of the protein with 500ml of water, but it's not just protein in the drink, it has carbohydrates as well. I have that straight after training.

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

As above, I tend to use protein-based drinks only as opposed to carbohydrate and protein-based drinks, but the latter can work for many fighters depending on the timescale required to make weight. Other supplements that could be useful include beta-alanine, fish oils, HMB and vitamin D. There are hundreds of supplements out there but none can replace a well-formulated diet and it is great to see Liam basing his approach on real foods.



POUND FOR POUND PROGRAMMING

THURS 16 APRIL 8PM • NEW: BOXNATION PRESENTS CASSIUS & HELDER
THE IFL TV TEAM DELIVER THE NEWS, VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS FROM THE BOXING WORLD THE FAN'S WANT TO HEAR

FRI 17 APRIL 7PM • LIVE: BUNCE'S BOXING HOUR
STEVE BUNCE BRINGS YOU OPINIONS AND UNIQUE TAKE ON THE WORLD OF BOXING ALONG WITH BARRY JONES AND GUESTS

SAT 18 APRIL 2AM • LIVE: CRAWFORD V DULORME & MATTHYSSE V PROVODNIKOV
AN AMERICAN DOUBLE HEADER SEES BIG PUNCHING STARS LUCAS MATTHYSSE AND RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV GO HEAD TO HEAD WHILE TERENCE CRAWFORD AIMS TO BECOME A TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPION

SUN 19 APRIL 10AM • MATHEWS V BARROSO
MISS THE LIVE EVENT LAST NIGHT? NO PROBLEM! CATCH THE MORNING REPLAY OF DERRY MATHEWS V ISMAEL BARROSO FOR THE WBA INTERIM WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE

MON 20 APRIL • NEW: BOXING MATTERS
EVERY TIME A BIG FIGHT'S COMING UP ALEX STEEDMAN AND HIS ESTEEMED GUESTS PREVIEW THE ACTION

TUES 21 APRIL • NEW: BOXNATION PRESENTS
BRITAIN'S RYAN RHODES WAS HAILED FOR HIS POP STAR GOOD LOOKS AS WELL AS HIS BOXING ABILITY. CANADIAN VETERAN OTIS GRANT WAS THE OPPONENT FOR HIS FIRST EVER TITLE WORLD TITLE FIGHT

WED 22 APRIL • NEW: GREATEST BOXING CLASSICS
TWO FIGHTS ON AFTER WINNING THE VACANT IBF WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE ROY JONES JR LOOKED TO CONTINUE CLIMBING THE RANKS OF THE SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS AGAINST FERMIN CHIRINO

ALL THIS AND MORE FROM YOUR 24/7 BOXING CHANNEL
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH **RAINHAM STEEL**

**HEAVYWEIGHT**

over 200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 63-3 (UKR)
- 2 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** 28-1 (RUS)
- 3 **DEONTAY WILDER** 33-0 (USA)
- 4 **KUBRAT PULEV** 20-1 (BGR)
- 5 **VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV** 20-0-1 (UKR)
- 6 **BERMANE STIVERNE** 24-2-1 (CAN)
- 7 **CARLOS TAKAM** 31-2-1 (CMR)
- 8 **TONY THOMPSON** 40-5 (USA)
- 9 **TYSON FURY** 24-0 (ENG)
- 10 **CHRIS ARREOLA** 36-4 (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHT

200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **MARCO HUCK** 38-2-1 (GER)
- 2 **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** 29-1 (CUB)
- 3 **GRIGORY DROZD** 39-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DENIS LEBEDEV** 27-2 (RUS)
- 5 **VICTOR EMILIO RAMIREZ** 22-2 (ARG) *[above]*
- 6 **OLA AFOLABI** 21-4-4 (ENG)
- 7 **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** 49-3-1 (POL)
- 8 **FIRAT ARSLAN** 34-8-2 (GER)
- 9 **THABISO MCHUNU** 17-1 (RSA)
- 10 **RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV** 22-1 (RUS)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

175lbs/12st 7lbs

- 1 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 27-0-1 (RUS)
- 2 **ADONIS STEVENSON** 26-1 (CAN)
- 3 **BERNARD HOPKINS** 55-7-2 (USA)
- 4 **JEAN PASCAL** 29-3-1 (CAN)
- 5 **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** 46-2 (GER)
- 6 **ANDRZEJ FONFARA** 26-3 (POL)
- 7 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** 8-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ISAAC CHILEMBA** 24-2-2 (MAW)
- 9 **TOMMY KARPENY** 24-4-1 (USA)
- 10 **CHAD DAWSON** 32-4 (USA)

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT

168lbs/12st

- 1 **CARL FROCH** 33-2 (ENG)
- 2 **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** 42-4 (GER)
- 3 **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** 47-4-1 (GER)
- 4 **GEORGE GROVES** 21-2 (ENG)
- 5 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** 27-0-1 (USA)
- 6 **JAMES DEGALE** 20-1 (ENG)
- 7 **FELIX STURM** 39-4-3 (GER)
- 8 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** 31-0 (MEX)
- 9 **ANDRE DIRRELL** 23-1 (USA)
- 10 **PAUL SMITH** 35-5 (ENG)

**MIDDLEWEIGHT**

160lbs/11st 6lbs

- 1 **MIGUEL COTTO** 39-4 (PRI)
- 2 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 32-0 (KAZ)
- 3 **SERGIO MARTINEZ** 51-3-2 (ARG)
- 4 **DANIEL GEALE** 31-3 (AUS)
- 5 **JERMAIN TAYLOR** 33-4-1 (USA)
- 6 **SAM SOLIMAN** 44-12 (AUS)
- 7 **MARTIN MURRAY** 29-2-1 (ENG)
- 8 **PETER QUILLIN** 31-0-1 (USA)
- 9 **ANDY LEE** 34-2-1 (IRL)
- 10 **DAVID LEMIEUX** 33-2 (CAN)

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT

154lbs/11st

- 1 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 44-1-1 (MEX)
- 2 **ERISLANDY LARA** 20-2-2 (CUB)
- 3 **AUSTIN TROUT** 28-2 (USA)
- 4 **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE** 34-5 (USA)
- 5 **CARLOS MOLINA** 22-6-2 (USA)
- 6 **ISHE SMITH** 26-7 (USA)
- 7 **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** 21-0 (USA)
- 8 **JERMELL CHARLO** 26-0 (USA)
- 9 **VANES MARTIROSYAN** 35-2-1 (USA)
- 10 **JERMALL CHARLO** 21-0 (USA)

WELTERWEIGHT

147lbs/10st 7lbs

- 1 **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** 47-0 (USA)
- 2 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-5-2 (PHL)
- 3 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 31-1-1 (USA)
- 4 **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** 56-7-1 (MEX)
- 5 **KELL BROOK** 34-0 (ENG)
- 6 **AMIR KHAN** 30-3 (ENG)
- 7 **SHAWN PORTER** 25-1-1 (USA)
- 8 **MARCOS MAIDANA** 35-5 (ARG)
- 9 **KEITH THURMAN** 25-0 (USA)
- 10 **ROBERT GUERRERO** 32-3-1 (USA)

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT

140lbs/10st

- 1 **DANNY GARCIA** 30-0 (USA)
- 2 **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** 36-3 (ARG)
- 3 **LAMONT PETERSON** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 4 **CHRIS ALGIERI** 20-1 (USA)
- 5 **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** 24-3 (RUS)
- 6 **JESSIE VARGAS** 26-0 (USA)
- 7 **VIKTOR POSTOL** 27-0 (UKR)
- 8 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** 19-1 (RUS)
- 9 **JOSE BENAVIDEZ** 22-0 (USA) *[above]*
- 10 **MAURICIO HERRERA** 21-5 (USA)

**LIGHTWEIGHT**

135lbs/9st 9lbs

- 1 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 25-0 (USA)
- 2 **MICKEY BEY** 21-1-1 (USA)
- 3 **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** 35-4 (MEX)
- 4 **RICHAR ABRIL** 19-3-1 (CUB)
- 5 **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN** 29-7-1 (MEX)
- 6 **DEJAN ZLATICANIN** 20-0 (MNE)
- 7 **YURIORKIS GAMBOA** 24-1 (CUB)
- 8 **OMAR FIGUEROA** 24-0-1 (USA)
- 9 **KEVIN MITCHELL** 39-2 (ENG)
- 10 **DENIS SHAFIKOV** 35-1-1 (RUS)

SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT

130lbs/9st 4lbs

- 1 **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** 22-0-1 (JPN)
- 2 **TAKASHI MIURA** 28-2-2 (JPN)
- 3 **RANCES BARTHELEMY** 22-0 (CUB)
- 4 **FRANCISCO VARGAS** 22-0-1 (MEX)
- 5 **BRYAN VASQUEZ** 34-1 (CRI)
- 6 **SERGIO THOMPSON** 30-4 (MEX)
- 7 **ADRIAN ESTRELLA** 21-0 (MEX)
- 8 **ROMAN MARTINEZ** 29-2-2 (PRI) *[above]*
- 9 **ORLANDO SALIDO** 42-13-2 (MEX)
- 10 **JAVIER FORTUNA** 27-0-1 (DOM)

FEATHERWEIGHT

126lbs/9st

- 1 **NICHOLAS WALTERS** 25-0 (JAM)
- 2 **VASYL LOMACHENKO** 3-1 (UKR)
- 3 **GARY RUSSELL JNR** 26-1 (USA)
- 4 **JHONNY GONZALEZ** 57-8 (MEX)
- 5 **SIMPIWE VETYEKA** 26-3 (RSA)
- 6 **ABNER MARES** 29-1-1 (MEX)
- 7 **EVGENY GRADOVICH** 20-0 (RUS)
- 8 **JAYSON VELEZ** 22-0-1 (PRI)
- 9 **JESUS CUELLAR** 26-1 (ARG)
- 10 **ROBINSON CASTELLANOS** 21-10 (MEX)

SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT

122lbs/8st 10lbs

- 1 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 2 **CARL FRAMPTON** 20-0 (NIR)
- 3 **LEO SANTA CRUZ** 29-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SCOTT QUIGG** 30-0-2 (ENG)
- 5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** 32-5 (SPA)
- 6 **NONITO DONAIRE** 34-3 (PHL)
- 7 **CHRIS AVALOS** 25-3 (USA)
- 8 **GENESIS SERVANIA** 26-0 (PHL)
- 9 **ANDRES GUTIERREZ** 31-0-1 (MEX)
- 10 **ENRIQUE QUEVEDO** 16-7-1 (MEX)

BANTAMWEIGHT

118lbs/8st 6lbs

- 1 **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA** 22-0-2 (JPN)
- 2 **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO** 16-0 (DOM)
- 3 **ANSELMO MORENO** 35-3-1 (PAN)
- 4 **KOKI KAMEDA** 33-1 (JPN)
- 5 **JAMIE McDONNELL** 25-2-1 (ENG)
- 6 **TOMOKI KAMEDA** 31-0 (JPN)
- 7 **MALCOLM TUNACAO** 35-3-3 (PHL)
- 8 **RANDY CABALLERO** 22-0 (USA)
- 9 **JULIO CEJA** 29-1 (MEX)
- 10 **RODRIGO GUERRERO** 22-5-1 (MEX)

**SUPER-FLYWEIGHT**

115lbs/8st 3lbs

- 1 **NAOYA INOUE** 8-0 (JPN)
- 2 **OMAR ANDRES NARVAEZ** 43-2-2 (ARG)
- 3 **CARLOS CUADRAS** 32-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI** 33-4-1 (THA)
- 5 **ZOLANI TETE** 20-3 (RSA)
- 6 **KOHEI KONO** 30-8-1 (JPN)
- 7 **NORBERTO JIMENEZ** 20-8-4 (DOM)
- 8 **DAVID SANCHEZ** 27-2-2 (MEX)
- 9 **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA** 26-0 (PHL)
- 10 **FELIPE ORUCUTA** 29-3 (MEX)

FLYWEIGHT

112lbs/8st

- 1 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 41-0 (NIC)
- 2 **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** 32-2 (MEX)
- 3 **BRIAN VILORIA** 35-4 (USA)
- 4 **AMNAT RUENROENG** 15-0 (THA)
- 5 **EDGAR SOSA** 51-8 (MEX)
- 6 **GIOVANI SEGURA** 32-4-1 (MEX)
- 7 **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** 35-1 (ARG)
- 8 **MORUTI MTHALANE** 31-2 (RSA)
- 9 **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO** 16-2 (PRI)
- 10 **YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHPE** 34-3 (THA)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT

108lbs/7st 10lbs

- 1 **DONNIE NIETES** 35-1-4 (PHL)
- 2 **PEDRO GUEVARA** 25-1-1 (MEX)
- 3 **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ** 30-3-1 (MEX)
- 4 **MOISES FUENTES** 20-2-1 (MEX)
- 5 **RYOICHI TAGUCHI** 21-2-1 (JPN)
- 6 **ALBERTO ROSSEL** 32-9 (PER)
- 7 **JAVIER MENDOZA** 23 -2-1 (MEX)
- 8 **GANIGAN LOPEZ** 25-5 (MEX)
- 9 **REY LORETO** 20-13 (PHL)
- 10 **RAUL GARCIA** 36-3-1 (MEX)

STRAWWEIGHT

105lbs/7st 7lbs

- 1 **HEKKIE BUDLER** 28-1 (RSA)
- 2 **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN** 37-0 (THA)
- 3 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** 28-7 (JPN)
- 4 **OSWALDO NOVOA** 14-5-1 (MEX)
- 5 **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG** 24-6-1 (CHN)
- 6 **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** 10-0 (THA)
- 7 **CARLOS BUITRAGO** 27-1-1 (NIC)
- 8 **KOSEI TANAKA** 4-0 (JPN)
- 9 **DENVER CUELLO** 34-5-6 (PHL)
- 10 **EDUARDO MARTINEZ** 11-2-1 (MEX)

POUND-FOR-POUND

The best of the best

- 1 **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** 47-0 (USA)
- 2 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-5-2 (PHL)
- 3 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 31-1-1 (USA)
- 4 **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** 56-7-1 (MEX)
- 5 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 6 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 63-3 (UKR)
- 7 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 27-0-1 (RUS) *[above]*
- 8 **CARL FROCH** 33-2 (ENG)
- 9 **MIGUEL COTTO** 39-4 (PRI)
- 10 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 41-0 (NIC)

● If a fighter has been inactive for over a year, he will not be included in the rankings, unless he has a fight officially scheduled.

● Each fighter is ranked on the results they have achieved in their own specific weight division (excluding the pound-for-pound list).

● A fighter cannot be ranked in a specific weight division until he has competed in that division.

APRIL

THURSDAY 16

Bodymaker Colosseum, Osaka, Japan

Shinsuke Yamanaka (holder) v Diego Ricardo Santillan (WBC bantamweight title).

FRIDAY 17

O2 Academy, Bournemouth

Ben Jones v s/o; Mitch Buckland v Victor Edagha; Joe Hayes v Frank Greaves; JJ McDonagh v Ryan Clark; Zack Davies v Lewis O'Mara; Sam Couzens v s/o; Jake Goswell v James Child. (Promoter: Greg Steene).

Le Cannet, France (British Eurosport)

Ahmed El Mousaoui (holder) v Junior Witter (EU welterweight title).

Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Connecticut (BT Sport 1 & ESPN2)

Tony Harrison v Pablo Munguia; Ryan Kielczewski v Danny Aquino. (Promoter: DiBella Entertainment & New Legend Boxing).

Grand Casino, Hinckley, Minnesota (CBS Sports Network)

Dennis Hogan v Tyrone Brunson; Tony Luis v Ira Terry. (Promoter: Greg Cohen).

Foxwoods Resort, Mashantucket, Connecticut (FOX Sports 1)

Murat Gassiev v Felix Cora Jnr (IBF Inter-Continental cruiserweight title); Ray Robinson v Sherzodbek Alimjanov; Dusty Hernandez Harrison v Henry Auraad. (Promoter: Roc Nation Sports).

SATURDAY 18

Echo Arena, Liverpool (BoxNation)

Derry Mathews v Ismael Barroso (vacant interim WBA lightweight title); Iain Butcher v Luke Wilton (vacant British flyweight title); Liam Smith v David Ezequiel Romero (vacant WBO Inter-Continental light-middleweight title); Joe Selkirk v s/o; Steven Lewis v Ben Roberts; James Metcalf v s/o; John Gillies v s/o; Andrew Cain v s/o. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

Camden Centre, King's Cross

Aarron Morgan v s/o; Warren Fenn v Nicky Jenman; Darius Skop v s/o; Tony Owen v s/o; Freddie Kiwitt v s/o; Yasin Basar v s/o; Arthur Herrmann v s/o; Micky O'Rourke v s/o; Chris Baugh v s/o; James Chiericato v s/o; Junior Saeed v s/o; Graham Tirrell v s/o; Ramon Levy-Vassie v s/o; Kian Thomas v Danny Donchev. (Promoter: Hellraiser).

GL1 Leisure Centre, Gloucester

Andy Keates v s/o (vacant Midlands Area lightweight title); Kelvin Young v Joe Walsh; Adam Harper v Aaron Robinson; Ryan Martin v Matthew Ashmole; Danny Carter v Matt Seawright; Dean Evans v Kristian Laight; Scott Gibbins Jnr v Mitch Mitchell. (Promoter: Keith Mayo).

Sports Centre, Oldham

Jon Kays v s/o (vacant WBC International Silver super-featherweight title); Matthew Hall v s/o; Mohammed Fahim v s/o; Ashley Mayall v s/o; Kallum De'Ath v s/o; Charlie Schofield v s/o; Paul Upton v s/o; Ronnie Heffron v s/o. (Promoter: VIP).

Action Indoor Sports, Bamfield, Bristol

Danny Butler v Giorgi Ungiadze; Joe Hughes v s/o. (Promoter: Andy O'Kane).

Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen

Darren Traynor v David Savage; Craig Kelly v Matthew McAllister (Scottish welterweight title); Ronnie Clark v s/o; Marek Laskowski v s/o. (Promoter: Granite City Boxing).

University of Texas, Arlington, Texas (BoxNation & HBO)

Terence Crawford v Thomas Dulorme (vacant WBO light-welterweight title); Diego Magdaleno v Luis Solis; Medzhid Bektemirov v Michael Gbenga. (Promoter: Top Rank).

StubHub Center, Carson, California (Showtime)

Julio Cesar Chavez Jnr v Andrzej Fonfara; Oscar Escandon (holder) v Moises Flores (interim WBA super-bantamweight title); Amir Imam v Walter Castillo; Omar Chavez v Richard Gutierrez; Fernando Guerrero v Abraham Han. (Promoter: Goossen Tutor).

Turning Stone Casino, Verona, New York (BoxNation & HBO)

Lucas Matthisse v Ruslan Provodnikov; Eddie Gomez v Jonathan Batista; Patrick Teixeira v Patrick Allotey; Vitaliy Kopylenko v Lekan Byfield. (Promoter: Banner & Golden Boy).

Paramount Theatre, Huntington, New York

Cory Cummings v Joe Smith Jnr; Jason Escalera v Naim Terbunja. (Promoter: Star Boxing).

WEDNESDAY 22

Bodymaker Colosseum, Osaka, Japan

Juan Carlos Reveco (holder) v Kazuto Ioka (WBA world flyweight title); Katsunari Takayama (holder) v Fahlan Sakkreerin Jnr (IBF straw-weight title).

FRIDAY 24

Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby

Dillian Whyte v s/o; Simon Barclay v Jason Jones; Darren Murray v Ali Wyatt; Mano Lee v s/o. (Promoter: Double A & Longshot).

UIC Pavilion, Chicago, Illinois (Spike TV)

Anthony Dirrell (holder) v Badou Jack (WBC super-middleweight title); Danny Jacobs (holder) v Caleb Truax (WBA world middleweight title); Roberto Garcia v Javier Molina; Artur Szpilka v Ty Cobb. (Promoter: Warriors Boxing).

Salle Calypso, Calais, France

Romain Jacob (holder) v Ermano Fegatilli (European super-featherweight title).

SATURDAY 25

Town Hall, Walsall

Rob Hunt v Sullivan Mason (vacant Midlands Area welterweight title); Jason Welborn v Dan Blackwell; Steven Pearce v Amir Unsworth; Warren Sinden v Aaron Robinson; Josh McLaren v Liam Richards; Luke Paddock v s/o; Tom Shaw v Dan Carr; Sid Bowater v Matt Seawright; Craig Morris v s/o; Ben Wilkes v s/o. (Promoter: Errol Johnson).

Madison Square Garden, New York, New York (BoxNation & HBO)

Wladimir Klitschko (holder) v Bryant Jennings (WBO, IBF and WBA Super world heavyweight titles); Sadam Ali v Francisco Santana; Charles Martin v Tom Dallas; Iago Kiladze v Edison Miranda. (Promoter: K2 & Gary Shaw Productions).

Majestic Theater, Dallas, Texas

Roberto Marroquin v Marcos Leonardo Jimenez; Rodolfo Gomez Jnr v Chad Trahan; Samuel Clarkson v Adan Leal; George Rincon v s/o; Christopher Jones v Jerome Davis; James Gray v Chester Burton.

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico (UniMas)

Felix Verdejo v Marco Antonio Lopez; Jason Sosa v Herbert Quartey. (Promoter: Top Rank).

Hartwall Arena, Helsinki, Finland

Edis Tatli v Yvan Mendy (vacant European lightweight title).

Columbiahalle, Berlin, Germany

Tyron Zeuge v Nikola Sjekloca (IBF International super-middleweight title); Karo Murat v Benjamin Simon (IBF International light-heavyweight title). (Promoter: Sauerland Event).

SUNDAY 26

Magna Centre, Rotherham

Dave Fidler v Adam Jones (vacant Central Area light-middleweight title); Loua Nassa v Ricky Leach; Sam Sheedy v s/o; Waleed Din v s/o; Ramzy Nassa v s/o; Kyle Yousaf v s/o; R.P. Davies v William Warburton; Razaq Najib v s/o; Uzair Najib v s/o; Adam Gleeson v Mark Till; Scott Westgarth v s/o; Christian Kinsiona v James Barnes. (Promoter: Dennis Hobson).

THURSDAY 30

Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, California (FOX Sports 1)

Mercito Gesta v Carlos Molina. (Promoter: Golden Boy).

The Palms, Las Vegas, Nevada (ESPN2)

Ashley Theophane v Mahonri Montes; Ishe Smith v s/o. (Promoter: Mayweather Promotions & Top Rank).

MAY

FRIDAY 1

Lancastrian Suite, Dunston

Basi Razaq v s/o; Robert Dixon v s/o; Andrew Buchanan v s/o; Lewis Scott v s/o; Paul O'Hagan v s/o. (Promoter: Relentless Promotions).

Red Cow Moran Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

Alfredo Meli v s/o; Steve Collins Jnr v s/o; Ciaran Bates v s/o; Gerard Whitehouse v s/o; Stephen Carroll v s/o; Phil Sutcliffe Jnr v s/o; Paul Quinn v s/o; Craig O'Brien v s/o; Matthew Wilton v s/o. (Promoter: Jane Wilton).

Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, Nevada (TruTV)

Raymundo Beltran v Takahiro Ao (vacant WBC lightweight title); Mikael Zewski v Konstantin Ponomarev; Jessie Magdaleno v s/o. (Promoter: Top Rank).

BOXING ON THE BOX

THURSDAY 16

6.00pm Sky Sports 1 Ringside
8.00pm BoxNation
Cassius and Helder
8.00pm ESPN
LIVE WSB: Britain v Cuba

FRIDAY 17

7.00pm BoxNation
Bunce's Boxing Hour

8.00pm British Eurosport

LIVE Ahmed El Mousaoui v Junior Witter

SATURDAY 18

3.00am BT Sport 1
LIVE Tony Harrison v Pablo Munguia
7.00pm BoxNation
LIVE Derry Mathews v Ismael Barroso

SUNDAY 19

2.00am BoxNation
LIVE Lucas Matthisse v Ruslan Provodnikov & Terence Crawford v Thomas Dulorme

MONDAY 20

7.00pm BoxNation
Boxing Matters

VESTED *INTEREST*

Meet the personalities
at the heart of the sport
With JOHN DENNEN

2020 VISION



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@BoxingNewsJD
Amateur Editor

Photos: AIBA & STEFAN JOHNSON/BRITISH LIONHEARTS



WELL TESTED:
After plenty of international
success at Youth level,
Ali will step up to the seniors

He's called Muhammad Ali, he wants to be the next Amir Khan; meet a rising star



MUHAMMAD ALI isn't the first precocious teenager to emerge from Bury ABC. Highly decorated at Youth level, Ali hopes to follow in the footsteps of Amir Khan, who came from the same amateur club. "I'm in the exact same position as he was, getting a late push on for the Olympics. Amir had a year to qualify and I'm in the exact same position," Muhammad said.

It's a lofty ambition. Salisbury's Blane Hyland is another rising star at 52kgs, Jack Bateson is now the established English number one and Andrew Selby, a two-time World medallist, is the leading GB flyweight. Even getting to an Olympic qualification tournament for Rio 2016 would be a battle against the odds.

"If I can get to these [next Olympics], I'll try my best, but if not obviously 2020 is my main aim. I'll try my best. If I keep pushing on I could get qualified and if I keep doing well, hopefully I will," Ali said.

"I think a bit more experience I should be alright to try to challenge [Andrew Selby]. Obviously it's going to be a tough challenge, number one in the world but you never know what could happen."

Ali reckons the way to beat an outstanding talent like Andrew would be to "not give him room and time, he likes to do everything at his own pace, nice and calm. Don't let him settle down. Obviously easier said than done".

He may be called Muhammad Ali but he never felt destined to be a boxer. "I was into football and cricket. I was doing football and boxing at the same time and football training's a lot slower, not as high intensity compared to boxing and I just didn't enjoy it as much. I fell out of love with football and I started doing boxing and got better and better and just kept going," he said. "Once I won a national title I thought, 'I'm alright at this.'"

Now Ali could be part of an exciting British team for the 2020 Olympic Games, perhaps joined by the likes of the McCormack twins, Pat and Luke [see facing page] and Peter McGrail, who are all entering the England Boxing Elite championships this year. For Muhammad this tournament could be key to showing that he can make a smooth transition to senior boxing.

It will be the first time he's competed without a headguard. "In my younger days at my gym we never used to spar with headguards or anything. I was fine with it then. Obviously head positioning's going to be important with cuts," he said. "I've just been to the European [Youth championships] I've not fought since then but I've done plenty of sparring."

He's medalled at the Youth Olympics, as well as the World Youth and European Youth championships and hopes that experience will help him continue to succeed in major competitions. He certainly no longer has any fears of international opposition. He insisted, "Now I'm thinking they're just the same as us English, there's nothing special about them."

"So I should be beating them. There's no reason why we shouldn't. Your confidence grows the more experience you have."

'YOUR CONFIDENCE GROWS THE MORE EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE'



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WEB WISDOM

Making my debut this Thursday for the British Lionhearts against Cuba at the Copper Box Arena, London! What an opportunity.

Darlington's TROY WILLIAMSON steps up to the plate for a serious battle.

Andy showed us why he deserves to be in there at the top level, great turn around and the draw was hard earned.

And still.
KEN EGAN is impressed by former team-mate and current world champion, Andy Lee.

Just because it's my birthday doesn't mean it gives me the excuse to laze around! Three miler smashed! Roll on the Echo Arena.

No rest for JORDAN REYNOLDS. He's into the England Boxing Elite championship quarter-finals in Liverpool.

Boxing again this weekend against Finland. Can't wait to get in and get the win, really looking forward to it.
Commonwealth Games silver medallist
MICHAELA WALSH gears up for action.

QUICK-FIRE Q&A

Lightweight Luke McCormack wants to join his twin brother Pat as a national Elite champion

How special would it be for both you and twin brother Pat to win titles at the Elite championships?

It would be unreal. We've done it as Juniors but it's different as seniors. It's like stepping up. We had a chance of doing it last year, but I got ill.

Have you had a bad run of illness and injury?

I've been quite unlucky. Every time I seem to box, I seem to get ill. But I'm feeling confident about this.

Who are you looking out for at lightweight?

Everyone who Pat boxed last year [Pat is now at 64kgs], I can't see anyone who's got us worried. I'm really confident.

How do you feel about following in his footsteps?

I'm a bit gutted in a way but I'm going to take his title off him. I've been getting his belt in the house and saying I'm going to take it off him.

I would love us to have won two titles, two years on the trot but it cannot be done, can it?

He's going to be rubbing it in my face if he's a two-weight champion. But I'm

'WHEN THE PRESSURE'S ON, I ALWAYS SEEM TO RISE UP TO IT'

just looking forward to getting back in the ring.

I've only had four senior fights [but] when the pressure's on, I always seem to rise up to it.

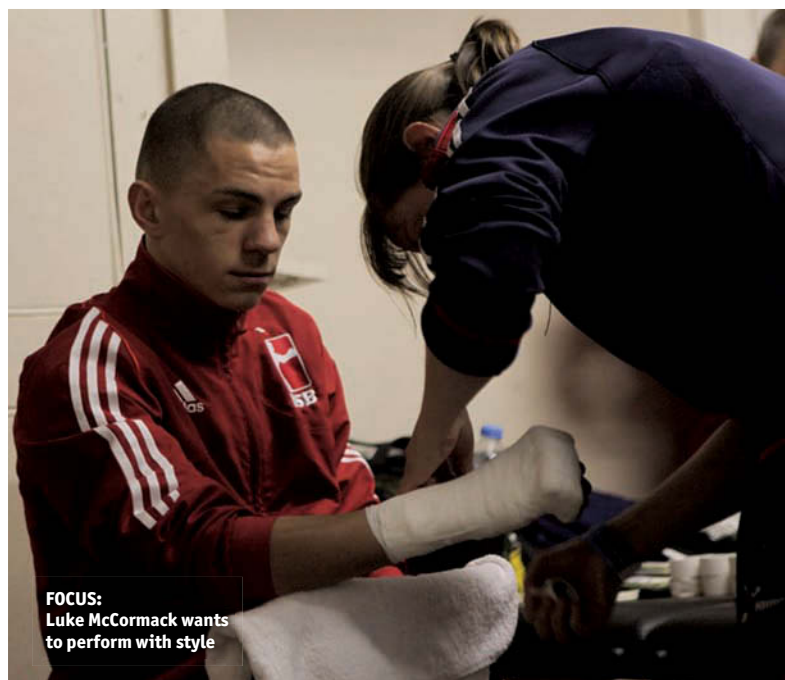
Is there a bit of rivalry between you and your brother?

I want us both to do well. I want us both to get there. But I want to get best boxer [at the Elite championships] definitely! That's going to be a little competition.

With twins, when we're against each other, it's proper competitive at everything, any sort of competition.

Do you have any favourite boxers?

I absolutely love [Vasyl] Lomachenko. He's just class. He'll fight anybody. He's aggressive. Ever since he won the 2008 Olympics I've been watching him.



FOCUS:
Luke McCormack wants to perform with style

TWIN AMBITION

[If he was still amateur] I would have to box him, wouldn't I? He's just unreal, you can't get much better than him.

How does your club, Birtley, keep on producing champions?

It's a top secret [laughs]. No, Graeme Rutherford is a proper, top coach. He's always dedicating his life to getting us better.

We just click with each other. Every year [he has] champion, champion, champion. Even when you've won a title he says, 'Oh, you've got to win two.' Then if you've won two, he's like, 'You've got to win them every year.' So you've always got to be on

form. He says you're only as good as your last fight, so everyone's always working to be the best you can be.

Tickets are on sale for the final stages of the England Boxing Elite championships in Liverpool on April 24-26. Passes for all three days are priced £39 and £28 concessions (including booking fee). Tickets are available individually for each day starting at £11.50 including booking fees. Orders subject to £2.25 handling fees.

To book tickets log on to www.echoarena.com or call the Echo Arena Box Office on 0844 8000 400.

MISSION 2015

We pick out a boxer who's planning on making an impact this year

YASNIER TOLEDO LOPEZ

ONE of the stars of the Cuban team coming to London on Thursday is their light-welterweight Yasnier Toledo Lopez. Overshadowed by Vasyl Lomachenko in recent years, the Cuban lost to the great Ukrainian in both the 2011 World championships and the 2012 Olympic Games. Lopez has still amassed a hefty haul of international silverware. Twice he's reached finals of the World championships and he won a bronze medal at London 2012. Experienced in the World Series of Boxing, he's unbeaten so far this season. He will box Liverpool's Sam Maxwell at the Copper Box on April 16. See www.bboxingnewsonline.net for the complete team line-ups.

A 2 for 1 promotion is now available on tickets, which are on sale at <http://tickets.sky.com/Other/World-Series-of-Boxing>, priced from £10 for adults and £5 for under-16s. Enter the code LIONHEART to take advantage of the 2 for 1 offer.



FAST FACTS

Age: 25
From: Cuba
Stance: Southpaw
Titles: World silver x2, Olympic bronze

AMATEUR SCENE

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With JOHN DENNEN | @BoxingNewsJD

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COACH'S CORNER

A CHANCE FOR ALL BOXERS



Rob McCracken

**GB
PERFORMANCE
DIRECTOR**

NEVER did I ever want GB to be seen as some place that's a closed shop and only certain people get in. The door's wide open. Harvey Horn showed that last year by winning the nationals as a non-GB boxer, likewise at 81kgs

with Joshua Buatsi [both of whom are now on the GB squad]. There's lots of opportunities for boxers in England in the England Boxing Elite championships and in the Home Nations to look good in competition, produce results and they'll be given the opportunity to come and show what they can do.

I think this year is even more interesting. There's some real good opportunities. It's a mixed team of seeds, whereas last year we put in established names and tried and tested ones who have been very successful. This year it's a mixed team because of international obligations and the World Series of Boxing but also deliberately so we can see who's out there.

It's a chance for all the boxers in England in the Elite championships to show what they can do and I'm sure plenty of them will fancy that they can beat the seeded GB boxer at their weight, that they can ultimately go on and win the championships. I think from everybody's point of view if we can uncover new talent it will be fantastic.

Lisa Whiteside is in at the same weight as Nicola Adams. Nicola was the Olympic champion and European champion, Lisa has worked hard in the background and took her opportunity when it came and arguably should be World champion. We thought she'd done enough to win the World championships. Ultimately [the Olympic place] won't be decided in one bout at the England Boxing Elite championships, it will be decided on their form at tournaments and their success internationally.

CARR IS THE STAR

Danny impresses in the England Boxing Elite championship quarter-finals



Malcolm Meredith
RINGSIDE

ALDERSHOT
APRIL 11

UNDOUBTED star of the Southern pre quarter-finals of the England Boxing Elite championships, in which standards fluctuated wildly, was **Danny Carr**. Well in command, sharper and faster than Holland Park's **Lewis Adams**, Fisher's Carr started opening up in the second round. He began to switch-hit in the third with superb footwork and classy punch placement. The split decision was peculiar, though Danny rightly got the nod.

The best bout of the night was **Charlie Driscoll** getting a split decision over **Kane Stewart** of Paddy Johns. The Lynn's Driscoll, when in control caught Stewart with looping rights to the head. **Thomas Beany** from Holland Park, where Terry Marsh is assisting with the coaching, won a unanimous decision over

Photo: ERIC GUY



FISHER KING:
Carr scores another good win

the Navy's **Aaron Meder**. Beany found trouble when he stood in front of Meder in a cracking last round.

At middleweight **Daniel Woledge** outpointed **Jack Langford**, Bideford, unanimously but it was nip and tuck throughout.

SOUTHERN PRE-QUARTER FINALS:

52: LIAM DAVIS (Donnington) bt Blessed Sithole (Isle of Thanet) w/o. **56:** CHRIS BOURKE (Balham) outpd Nathaniel Gray (Woking) split, KYRON O'NEILL (Welwyn Garden City) outpd Ricki Lyon (RAF) unan. **60:** TASHINGA MUCHAPONDWA (Bulmershe) outpd Jack Wood (Wednesbury) unan, DANNY CARR (Fisher) outpd Lewis Adams

(Holland Park) split. **64:** LUKE FISHER (Royal Navy) outpd Sam Malone (Holland Park) unan, Kane Stewart (Paddy Johns) outpd by CHARLIE DRISCOLL (Lynn) split. **69:** Jack Bellingham (Mayflower) outpd by JOE LOUIS D'SANTOS (Woking) split, Aaron Meder (Royal Navy) outpd by THOMAS BEANY (Holland Park) unan. **75:** Jack Langford (Bideford) outpd by DANIEL WOLEDGE (St Mary's) unan, HAMID SEDIQY (Dale Youth) outpd Chris Goddard (Sudbury) unan. **81:** DAN AZEEZ (Essex University) outpd Ben Jones (Royal Navy) unan, MATTHEW TINKER (Dale Youth) outpd Clinton Baptiste (Hockwell Ring) split, BRYCE GOODRIDGE (Basingstoke) outpd Dylan Courtney (Cambourne) unan. **91:** Callum Power (Melton Mowbray) bt by CONROY DOWNER (Bedford) w/o.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

More places booked for the later stages of the senior championships

THE Northern pre-quarter finals of the England Boxing Elite championships took place on April 11 at the Arc Leisure Centre in Clowne. Spennymoor's **Reece Ellis**, having come back from injury, will hope to have an impact at light-heavyweight after halting Macclesfield's **Jake Haigh**. Knowsley Vale's

Ryan Mulcahy's split decision over **George Hillier**, Stevenage, puts him through at 69kgs.

RESULTS: **52:** Hussain Parvais (Northside) outpd by TOMMY FRANKS (Sheffield Boxing Centre) unan. **56:** Ijaz Sheikh (St Francis) outpd by MARCEL BRAITHWAITE (Golden Gloves) split, HASSAN MAHMOOD (Bury) outpd Pourie Sadjadi (Haddenham) unan. **60:** Samuel Daley (King's Heath) outpd by TOM MCGUINNESS (Kirkdale) unan, Luke Evans (Irlam) outpd by ADAM COPE (Gus Robinson) unan. **64:** DARREN RICHARDSON (East Durham) outpd Irvin Magno (Buxton) unan, Matt Galliers (Wayne Elcocks) outpd

by COURTNEY CHADWICK (Phoenix Fire) unan, Billy Pickles (Burmantofts) outpd by DANIEL WRIGHT (Centurions) unan. **69:** George Hillier (Stevenage) outpd by RYAN MULCAHY (Knowsley Vale) split, JACK RAFFERTY (Northside) outpd Gamanuel Pensee (Far Cotton) unan. **75:** Zac Parker (Swadlincote) outpd by RYSZARD LEWICKI (Sheffield City) split, James Seddon (Transport) outpd by NOEL SMITH (King's Heath) unan. **81:** Jake Haigh (Macclesfield) stpd by REECE ELLIS (Spennymoor), Luke Caci (Orme) stpd by GARY MAYOR (Bad Boyz). **91:** MICHAEL MCKAY (Hook & Jab) outpd Peter Stubbs (Harrogate) unan.

BROKEN DREAMS

Britain lose to Russia as Joe Joyce's hopes of early qualification fade



John Dennen
RINGSIDE

MOORGATE
APRIL 9

IT was a night of pain for the British Lionhearts as they lost 4-1 to the Russian Boxing Team at The Brewery in London in the World Series of Boxing, the suffering all the more acute as super-heavyweight **Joe Joyce's** defeat to **Maxim Babanin** sees his hopes of early qualification for the next Olympic Games fade.

Babanin, the shorter, fleshier man countered Joyce sharply as the Londoner failed to apply his customary pressure. The Russian took a split decision. "He was a tricky opponent, very experienced," Joe said. "I'm just disappointed with myself not to get the win and making it a raffle to qualify.

"I couldn't get through this door so I'll be on to the next door, the Europeans and then qualifying for the Worlds and see if I can get the win there."

Welterweight **Scott Fitzgerald**, a Commonwealth Games gold medallist like Joyce, also lost a split decision. High quality **Radzhab Butaev** cracked lead left hooks over Scott's guard, starting strongly with real spite in his punches. Fitzgerald proved gritty, withstanding shots and fighting on to the front foot. Butaev was always combative, naturally he found counter-punches and responded with his own attacks when Scott landed. Butaev won deservedly on points and is on course to reach Rio 2016.

"I think I hurt him with some good body shots and maybe one or two head shots. He was a real strong lad though, he took them well and fired back every time," Fitzgerald said. "He was a good fighter but next time I'll beat him. It shows the standard I'm at, after the points he's piled up in WSB I'm sure he'll go to world number

Photo: STEFAN JOHNSON/BRITISH LIONHEARTS



OUTFOXED:
Babanin [right]
catches Joyce

one now and he's the number one in WSB."

Joshua Buatsi couldn't repeat a victory against **Pavel Silyagin** as the Russian's thoughtful performance saw him take a close but unanimous decision.

Russia's heavy-handed **Adlan Abdurashidov** pounded out a points victory over France's **Oualid Belaoura**, while Spanish flyweight

Kelvin De La Nieve looked sharp as he picked out scoring blows against **Vassily Vetkin**, collecting the solitary victory for the Lionhearts franchise on the night.

The British Lionhearts will box the Cuba Domadores, featuring Olympic medallist Yasnier Toledo Lopez and top heavyweight Erislandy Savon, at the Copper Box in London on Thursday (April 16).

TAKING A STAND

Alfie Clegg dedicates his latest win to a victim of knife crime

ONE of Guildford City ABC's amateur boxers, Alfie Clegg dedicated his most recent victory, a contest on a New Astley club show, to the memory of Daniel Sommerville, who died after a stabbing incident. After the bout the 15-year-old left his winner's trophy on the grave.

Anti-Knife UK, an anti-knife crime organisation, have presented Alfie with an award for his actions highlighting the tragedy. "As well as paying tribute to Daniel Sommerville we will be trying to focus on the anti-knife crime aspect and the positive influence that amateur boxing can have on kids' lives," said Ben Harmsworth, one of the club coaches.

SUPPORT TEAM WISEMAN

The club needs a better training base

THE Team Wiseman club needs help. It already has a Junior England Boxing national champion in Mark Chamberlain this season. However, the club can only hire out a local community centre once a week for its boxers to train in.

Daron Wiseman started up the club in Portsmouth in order to keep kids off the streets. He works with a team of coaches and now the club has more than 30 children as members. Already doing good work, it does need a more suitable home, where it can run training sessions more frequently throughout the week, and so it is appealing to Portsmouth City Council for assistance.

Dean Wheeler writes: "[Daron] does this all out of his own pocket, he hires the local community centre

once a week and the rest of the week they train on the street in our road, they do sprinting up and down the concrete steps on our maisonettes, and sparring in the basketball cage behind our block, yet he still produces championship-quality boxers."

They have started petitioning the council for help finding a permanent gym. "The whole community is behind this project," Wheeler continued. "Maybe we can help get these lads [somewhere] they can train permanently without risk of harm or injury and out of the elements."

Visit <https://www.change.org/p/portsmouth-city-council-secure-a-place-for-a-full-time-boxing-gym-or-financial-help-in-getting-one-to-see-the-petition>.

CONQUERING LIVERPOOL

THE Merseyside & Cheshire stages of the England Boxing Elite championships were completed on April 2.

MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE RESULTS:

52: BLANE HYLAND (Salisbury) outpd Ryan Briscoe (Wirral Community) split.
56: Jay Hulme (Kirkdale) outpd by MARCEL BRAITHWAITE (Golden Gloves) unan.
60: Gerrard Carroll (Salisbury) outpd Meshech Russell (Golden Gloves) unan.
TOM MCGUINNESS outpd Carroll split. **64:** Justin Beacall (Wallasey) outpd by JAKE COTSOPoulos (Highbury) unan, James Collins (Salisbury) outpd by COURTNEY CHADWICK (Phoenix Fire) unan, CHADWICK outpd Cotsopoulos unan.
69: Mark Bebbington (New Era) outpd by DANNY CRAVEN (Hook & Jab) split, Tom Austin (Croxteth) stpd by RYAN MULCAHY (Knowsley Vale) 2nd. **75:** Harry Scarf (Salisbury) outpd by JAMES SEDDON (Transport) unan, MULCAHY outpd Craven split. **81:** TOM WHITTAKER HART (Rotunda) outpd Harry Woods (Kirkby) unan. **91:** Nathan Quarless (Salisbury) outpd by MICHAEL MCKAY (Hook & Jab) unan.

Photo: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES



YOUTH PREVAILS:
De La Hoya [left]
triumphs against
veteran Whitaker



OSCAR GETS PAST PERNELL

De La Hoya
outscores
Whitaker in a
bore, writes
Daniel Herbert

OSCAR DE LA HOYA had a close call when he fought Pernell Whitaker at the Thomas and Mack Arena in Las Vegas - for everyone except the judges that is.

For them, the Golden Boy won clearly by cards of 115-111 for Chuck Giampa and 116-110 for both Jerry Roth and Dalby Shirley. The others in the building saw a tight tussle with ESPN, CNN and ABC all adjudging Whitaker as the winner.

Ringside for *BN*, Claude Abrams explained that predicting who would win, and during the fight itself, "trying to decipher the hard punches from the soft, the misses from the hits, and the occasional fouls and showboating, proved to be even more demanding."

Abrams had De La Hoya winning, "but not by the same wide margins as the officials."

What had seemed a classic pairing of a young talent on the rise against a skilled, defensive wizard veteran just didn't live up to expectations. Admitted Abrams, "Unfortunately it was not the sparkling cocktail we had anticipated so eagerly from men with such advanced nuances, but instead the awkward stalemate we had feared all along."

With the decision, De La Hoya won Whitaker's WBC welterweight title.

STILL IN THE SPORT

OUR domestic coverage included reports on a couple of Newark (Nottinghamshire) fighters who are still in the sport two decades later, albeit in different roles.

At Pinegrove Country Club in Sheffield on April 10, Newark featherweight Carl Greaves "almost came unstuck" in a "thrilling" six-tuos against Kevin Sheil before winning 59 1/2-58 1/2 for referee Roy Snipe. We reported how Greaves went down "under a sustained attack" in round three but was rescued by the bell and

"recovered well in the fourth to box his way to victory".

Carl is now a busy manager, promoter and trainer.

Two days later at Sheffield's Hillsborough Leisure Centre, Esham Pickering repeated a previous win when Roy Snipe adjudged him a 40-39 victor over Graham McGarth in a superbantam four-rounder. We said that "Pickering threw a good variety of shots all night."

Pickering now trains pro fighters himself.

SETBACK FOR MAGEE

NORTHERN IRISH light-welter Eamonn Magee turned up in Boston, Massachusetts and surprisingly lost his unbeaten record to Teddy Reid from Maryland. Our unnamed reporter said that Reid "proved too fast and powerful over six", winning a majority decision with two 59-55 scores and a level 57-57.

The show happened at a 1,200-seat nightclub called The Roxy, where the Belfastman was the crowd favourite. But that didn't help him as Reid "slung long,

sharp shots from weird angles that repeatedly crashed through the upright southpaw's normally tight defence."

We added that Magee "tried to get something going", but was "too tentative and stiff", and that by round three "the normally composed redhead was jumping off-balance, obviously befuddled and frustrated."

Magee, who ended the fight bleeding from the nose, lost for the first time after seven wins (five inside the distance).



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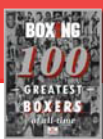


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LEONARD BUNDU

Sam Corbishley talks to a man who experienced love at first sight

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE

When and why you started boxing:

I started boxing when I moved from Sierra Leone to Italy at 16 years old. I'd always wanted to do some form of contact sport.

Favourite all-time fighter:

I really loved Roy Jones Jr in his prime. He was one of the best.

Best fight you've seen:

Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo I [a 10th-round stoppage win for Corrales in May 2005].

Personal career highlight:

My successful European welterweight title defences in England [a 12th-round stoppage of Lee Purdy in December 2013 and a split verdict over Frankie Gavin in August 2014]. I showed my skills and proved that I'll fight anyone.

Toughest opponent:

Purdy was a tough, hard hitter. He came to fight.

Best and worst attributes as a boxer:

My best attribute is that I can adapt to both stances, which confuses my opponents. My worst is that I didn't start taking my boxing career seriously until I was about 30 years old.

Training tip:

Don't think about the pain now, think about the rewards later.

Best friends in boxing:

I have a good relationship with my coach, Alessandro Boncinelli. He's always taken care of me and given me advice.

Other sportsman you would like to be:

If I wasn't a boxer, I'd probably be a golfer. They get paid quite well!

Last film/TV show you saw:

I saw an animated film at the cinema with my kids. It was called *Minuscule: Valley of the Lost Ants*.



'I'M ALWAYS IN THE KITCHEN. I COOK FOR EVERYONE'

Who would play you in a film of your life:

Denzel Washington. He's a cool guy.

Have you ever been starstruck:

When I first met my wife. From the moment I saw her, I knew she'd be mine.

Last time you cried:

Not too long ago, I had a dog that used to sleep in my house. One night I came in late and found him dead. Some other dogs had come in and attacked him. It was very, very sad.

Best advice received:

A colleague of mine when I was younger said, 'Don't worry about tomorrow's problems, just live for the moment.'

Worst rumour about yourself:

Someone recently described me as 'that old guy'. I was angry about that. I'm not old!

Something not many people know about you:

I spend most of my time cooking and reading cookery books. I'm always in the kitchen. Even when I'm on a diet, I cook for everyone else.

FAST FACTS

Age: 40 **Twitter:** @LeonardBundu **Nickname:** 'The Lion' **Height:** 5ft 6 1/2ins **Nationality:** Sierra Leonean-Italian **From:** Cisterna **Stance:** Orthodox **Record:** 31-1-2 (11) **Division:** Welterweight **Titles:** Italian, EU, Commonwealth & European **Next fight:** Bundu is looking to rebound following a loss to Keith Thurman last year.

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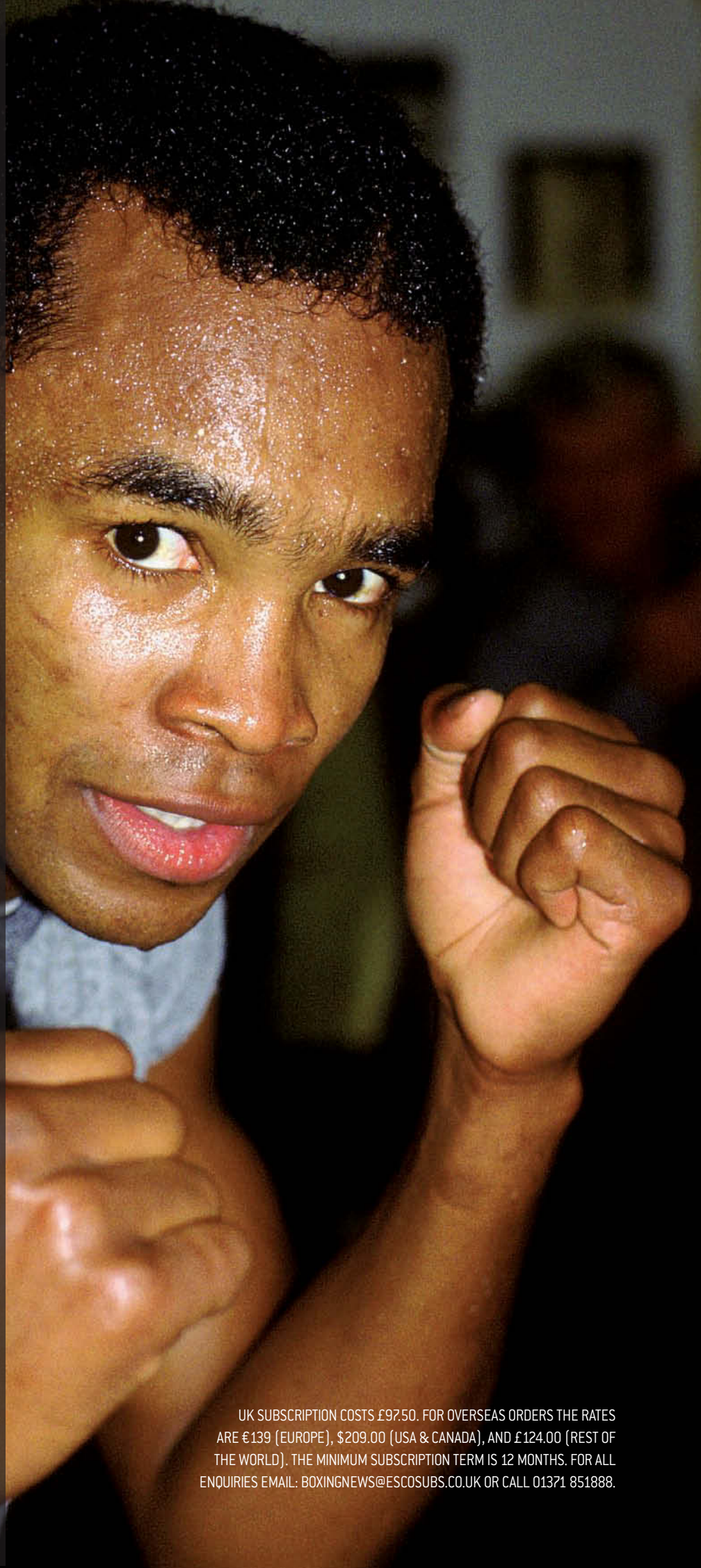
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